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THE NAVY.

MANY are the projects which have, at various times, been put forth for the organization of the Navy—all hitherto unsuccessful, as if some hidden influence had laid a spell upon the efforts of the true friends of this arm of our service to render it more efficient, and consequently more valuable to the country.

So much repugnance to legislate upon the subject has been manifested in Congress, that it might appear to the casual observer as if the Navy was rather suffered to remain as an incurable ulcer upon the body politic, than worthy of being cherished for its former deeds, or sustained for its present and prospective usefulness. Appropriations for ordinary expenditures have not been withheld; indeed, some few new vessels have been authorized to be built, and two dry docks constructed, during the past ten years, in addition to the extension and improvement of the Navy Yards. But a total neglect of the means to improve the *personnel* of the Navy has well nigh prostrated the hopes of the younger officers, and withered their ardent aspirations for fame and distinction.

The Navy will never rest satisfied, and ought not to be, until Congress gives it an organization; its past services deserve it, and its future usefulness and efficiency demand it. The longer this justice is postponed, the less acceptable will it be. It must be conceded by every one, that that organization will best secure the desired result, which gives to the officers the greatest quantum of *employment*.

It is one of the evils incident to a state of peace, that it leaves too much leisure to engender feelings of jealousy and animosity,

which a state of war or active employment would prevent, by the excitements of the day, or by constant occupation with professional duties. Superadd to this, the habits of indolence, if nothing worse, which a want of employment is too prone to foster, and the absence of all stimulus to extraordinary exertions, and it need not create surprise that men of even moderate ambition despair of attaining the higher rewards for superior acquirements or a zealous discharge of duties.

No one doubts that the officers of our Navy pant for an opportunity to distinguish themselves; but there is none. A state of profound peace with all the world presents no field for the acquisition of new laurels by victories over an enemy. No one will deny but that our Navy can achieve as gallant conquests now, as it did twenty years ago. But because there is no enemy to contend with, should that prevent all attempts at improvement? Are we always to remain stationary, while the arts, sciences, and general knowledge are in a course of rapid progression and diffusion?

It is almost susceptible of the clearest demonstration, that the cause of the evils under which the service has long labored, and ever will until the proper corrective be applied, is the want of adequate legislation.

Congress, at the last session, manifested a munificent liberality towards the Marine Corps. This is but a branch of the Naval arm. What is there to prevent a similar extension of favor to the Navy itself? The feelings of the people are with the Navy; the will of the Legislature is good. What then is wanting? Nothing, but for the officers to throw off their inertness, and go forward *in a body* to Congress for relief. But if the seniors propose one thing, and the juniors something else entirely different; if one grade is arrayed against another, and petty jealousies intrude to mar the harmony of the service, the representatives of the people will give no ear to complaints—no voice for relief.

The creation of a higher grade than that of captain has been often urged, as a measure of justice to some of those who have grown gray in service, and as an object of aspiration for those who must sooner or later take their places. The army has its generals; why should not the navy have its admirals? The strongest argument in favor of creating this grade is the fact, that our officers will never receive, and therefore need not look for, that distinction abroad, while they hold only the commission of captain, which is freely awarded to officers of other navies, of far less experience, and having smaller forces under their command. This is an age of rapid and unparalleled improvement. It is time to surrender that childish fear of the introduction of aristocratical notions and feelings, by adopting the titles of other nations. Admiral! it is no patent of nobility, farther than deeds give the claim; it cannot descend from father to son, but dies with its possessor. Our ears have been long familiar to the sound of general, and it creates no sensation of dread for the safety of the republic. What is there in admiral so repulsive?

" Write them together,—  
Sound them, it doth become the mouth as well ;  
Weigh them, it is as heavy."

If title, or rank, presents so great a stimulus to exertion and a darling object of ambition, it is a harmless boon to grant. There should be no useless, or merely honorary, titles in the Navy.—That of commodore is superfluous and should be abolished, if it were not too strongly fortified by long established usage to be now eradicated; it had therefore better be legalised. The twenty highest captains on the list have had commands which entitled them for the time to be styled by courtesy—Commodore; and they still continue to enjoy it, long after the duty which conferred it has been finished;—for "once a commodore, always a commodore." Why not give a legal sanction to that, which custom has made so general?

The title of master commandant is extremely awkward and rarely used, except in official communications; it is dropped by common consent for that of captain. The skipper of the smallest bay craft is called captain; surely the commander of a national vessel of war, mounting twenty-four guns, deserves as sonorous an appellation.

Midshipmen will never consider themselves much benefitted by merely having the word " Passed " precede their ancient humble appellation. But give them the name of lieutenant, and it looks as if they had some substantial reward.

Since rank then, is an object of such universal and earnest desire to all, and if it will lead to that spirit of emulation which gives tone and strength to a military body; if it tends to increase that *esprit du corps*, which makes a man feel proud of his profession, let it be granted. When once the point is settled, officers will know what they have to look forward to, and will cease to discuss the merits of this, that or the other proposition, and they will be relieved from that state of painful suspense, which now crushes their energies, and chills their fondest hopes.

None of the projects, which have as yet met my eye, correspond with my ideas of the wants of the service. Nothing daunted, however, by the cold indifference with which all have been received, and unawed by the ridicule with which every new scheme is viewed, I shall proceed to offer my own suggestions for consideration, and ask for them that candid attention, which a subject so important to the vital interests of the Navy demands.

In the first place, I would arrange the different grades, as follows:—

1. Admiral,
  2. Vice Admiral,
  3. Rear Admiral.
  4. Commodore, in lieu of Captain.
  5. Captain, in lieu of Master Commandant.
  6. Commander, instead of Lieutenant.
  7. Lieutenant, instead of Passed Midshipman
- }
- New grades.

As to the number of each grade, that is a matter of expediency, on which there will be much difference of opinion. The first point, in my estimation, to be gained, is to have the grades established by law; the number can always be increased if necessary, and there is little danger that Congress will reduce the number at present in service.

Instead of the Board of Navy Commissioners, as at present organized, there should be separate bureaus, with one officer of high rank to superintend each. Where responsibility is divided, as it now is, no one will take the whole weight to himself, and in case of mismanagement, blame cannot attach to any one in particular, but must be shared by all alike. When a man has to devote his attention to many subjects, it stands to reason, that he cannot give to all that due consideration which they deserve: whereas, if he had but one branch under his supervision, and was responsible for its faithful management, he could devote to it all the energies of his mind, and would take a just pride in preserving order and system.

A subdivision and separation of the duties of the Navy Commissioners has been frequently recommended. If carried into effect, there would be required

One Commissioner of repairs and equipments of vessels, and improvement of navy yards.

One Commissioner of contracts, for supplies of every description, except ordnance.

One Commissioner of ordnance and ordnance stores, with one or two assistants as Inspectors.

It has been suggested to create an office for the Navy to correspond with that of adjutant general of the Army. The idea is a good one, but as some difficulty has been expressed to find a suitable title, and brevity is desirable, I would recommend that of "*Registrar of the Navy.*" The officer might be a post captain or master commandant.

The code of "Rules and Regulations," prepared by a board of captains and submitted to Congress during the last session, has been received with strong disapprobation from all classes in the Navy; nor is it probable that any code can be devised, by a board composed exclusively of post captains, which would meet the concurrence of the other grades.

If, therefore, it be deemed advisable to organize another board, I would suggest an important feature in the constitution of it—neither more nor less than that every grade of commissioned officers in the Navy should be represented at it. Let not the sturdy veteran, accustomed to implicit obedience, curl his lip in disdain at the proposal. Let not the lieutenant, surgeon, or purser force a smile of credulity, because a compliance with such a proposal seems impossible, inadmissible, and need not be looked for. Is it not strictly conformable to the genius of our republican institutions, that those for whom laws are to be made, should have some voice in the preparation of those laws?

What peculiar fitness does a post captain possess, to form regulations for the government of a medical officer? Are not the medical officers themselves the best judges of what is appropriate?

And why should not a purser be consulted in a matter in which not only his pecuniary interest is at stake, but in which his bonds-men and friends are involved?

Should it be urged that if the Medical officers and Purasers have any agency in the preparation of rules for their own government, they will incline to favor themselves as much as possible,—I meet the objection at once by observing that their commissions as officers, their professional reputation, and their characters as individuals, are responsible for the issue; and, besides, no rules and regulations can be valid until they shall have been approved by the President, and sanctioned by Congress.

The post captains possess almost unlimited power, when invested with an independent command, and they should be contented with this. It is their duty to see the rules and regulations enforced, and they will have the strongest plea for enforcement, in the consideration that the parties to be governed have assisted in their preparation.

There being more officers now in service, of the grade of master commandant, lieutenant, and passed midshipman, than can be profitably employed, the Secretary of the Navy should be authorized to detail as many as are requisite to discharge clerical duties at the several bureaus. It would give the officers, by turns, an insight into the nature of business at the seat of government, and would be to them a pleasant occupation, a relief from the monotony of sea life or the drudgery of a dock yard. As a measure of economy, too, it would be advantageous, and save clerk-hire.

There being also more post captains than can be employed under the present system, a different arrangement should be adopted. Let the senior ones, who have had their share of active duty, be appointed to seaports as commanding officers of all vessels afloat, (when an officer senior to them is not present,) through whom should be made to the Department all reports of the arrival and departure of vessels of war, as well as every thing else connected with the Navy, not pertaining to the navy yards. When a vessel of war is turned over to the yard for repairs, she should be entirely under the control of the commandant of the yard, and when her repairs and equipments are completed, she should be again placed under the orders of the commanding officer afloat.

The junior captains being now in the prime of life, should be assigned to the command of navy yards, or cruising vessels suited to their rank.

No clashing of rights or prerogatives should be permitted between those who command stations and those who command yards. Their several duties can and ought to be specifically defined, and no interference of one with the other need take place. By this plan, the Register would be cleared of that unprofitable appendage to the names of so many officers—"on leave of absence," or "waiting orders."

The duties of the commandants of yards, under the present system, are too multifarious and complicated to be discharged with justice to the public or ease to the incumbent, let him have as many subordinate assistants as he may. He cannot examine into every thing and scrutinize every account submitted for his approval as he should do, but must take much from others upon trust.

The superintendence of light-houses, beacons, and buoys seems to belong more appropriately to the Navy than to the Treasury Department. I do not say that the system is not well managed at present, but as new light-houses are ordered to be built almost every year, and will always be demanded by our increasing commerce, and we have a most extensive sea-coast to guard, true economy would suggest that if a person practically acquainted with the subject were to be invested with the general superintendence, much public benefit would result; and there are certainly many among the captains of the Navy well qualified for the station.

It is confidently averred that all the laws that may be enacted for the organization of the Navy, will fail eventually of the desired aim, unless they provide for the establishment of a NAVAL ACADEMY. This subject has been so often and ably urged upon the attention of Congress, that little more seems necessary at this time than to refer to the numerous reports made from the Department, to be found among the printed documents.

The improvement which a few years would produce, after the Academy had gone into operation, would be so manifest that every one would be surprised that the proposal ever had an opponent, and a universal regret would be felt that it was not commenced thirty years ago, at the first formation of the Navy.

The ambitious youths of the country are still eagerly pressing their claims for the appointment of midshipmen. How many of them, alas! have found their noble aspirations for fame nipped in the bud, and retired from the service in disgust? Would this be the case, if they were properly prepared for their duties at sea, by studies on shore? Few boys are fitted by nature to endure the rough-and-tumble fare, which greets them on their first entrance on ship-board. A boy of sensitive feelings is discouraged by the ridicule thrown upon his first efforts to acquire a knowledge of his profession. It may be said that the Navy is not a suitable place for boys of that temperament; but let it be remembered that they may possess all the requisites to form good officers, and if the energies of their minds are directed in the proper channel will conquer the physical difficulties under which they labor. Many of them become disheartened, and prefer retiring altogether from a service which they find so little congenial to their feelings. Would it be so, if by a timely preparation at an academy, they could acquire a theoretical knowledge of their profession, so as to enter upon the practical discharge of their duties at sea, with satisfaction to themselves?

How was it with the Army, before selections were confined to graduates from the Military Academy?

How could it be otherwise than highly prejudicial, when men of mature life and confirmed habits were brought into association together, some with only a slight knowledge, and others without any, of the duties of the profession they were about to enter?

By a course of discipline and studies, the cadets are led to harmonize together: all the little acerbities and rough edges of their nature are worn off by daily intercourse, and when they graduate, they are prepared to enter upon higher duties, complete masters of their profession. As a *tout ensemble*, our Army may proudly stand a comparison with any other in the world, and its equal, if not superior, claims to scientific acquirements would be recognised.

The same advantages would result to the Navy by the establishment of a Naval Academy, which the Army has derived and now enjoys from the Military Academy.

I may be pardoned for illustrating the advantages and necessity of a Naval Academy, by introducing part of an article on the subject of the Navy, contained in the North American Review, for April, 1830, and believed to have been written by an officer of our Navy, not unknown to fame. I could scarcely hope to add to the forcible suggestions which this extract contains, in favor of such an Academy. The article attracted much and flattering notice, at the time it appeared, but, like almost every thing else on the same subject, seems to have been forgotten, both by legislators and the public.

"Of the various classes of officers into which our Navy divides itself, there is none, however, that so urgently recommends itself to the solicitude of the country as that of midshipmen. It may be further said, that none can, by future results, so well reward the solicitude that may be bestowed upon it. The habits and characters of the older officers are already formed, and will admit only of slight modification; but midshipmen may be modified at pleasure. According to the existing system, their only education beyond the mere reading and writing they have learned of the school-madam, is picked up on board, so that if they acquire anything in addition to the mere practice of the profession, it is owing, in the first place, to their own zeal and desire of improvement, and, as they grow older and draw nigh the term of their probation, to the terrors of an approaching examination. Some may say that the practice of the profession is enough, and instance sundry hard fighters, who have known no more, to prove it. But our most meritorious officers, of every rank, are not of this opinion; and accordingly we find them acquainting themselves with the laws of nations, mastering the languages of those countries which they most frequently visit, and cultivating a taste for the sciences, and the study of that nature which presents itself to them in so many various and imposing forms. But all these acquisitions are made in the face of every disadvantage. Study is prosecuted without system; the best works are either unknown or are procured with difficulty; and the habit of application and fixed attention, the most valuable of all habits, the very root of all excellence, cannot well be formed except in

youth, when mind and character are alike flexible. This youth is now spent on ship-board, and its best days, the days of aptness and docility, usually consecrated to education, are idly wasted, or, at best, employed in acquiring that practical knowledge, which would be of infinitely easier attainment were a foundation laid, and the mind matured by years and study. Often those generous impulses, which, if directed aright, might lead to the most brilliant results, left to themselves, or at best unwholesomely restrained, run riot until mind and character are perverted, and the hopes of affection and patriotism drowned in debauchery. We see but one measure adapted to remove the evil and attain the good, a measure, which, though longed for by the Navy, desired by the nation to which it is so justly dear, and again and again urged upon Congress by executive recommendation, yet from the intricacies of parliamentary proceedings, the clashing of party interests, or some other sufficient cause, is still unhappily a *desideratum*.

"We speak of a preparatory school for the Navy, such as the Army possesses in the Academy at West Point. The motives for establishing the one are not inferior to those which long since called the other into existence. Naval affairs are not less distinct from the ordinary pursuits of life than military affairs, and therefore we cannot discover why those, who are to make them a profession, should less need a specially adapted education. And if it be admitted that a preparatory education is as necessary to qualify a youth to become a distinguished naval officer, as to excel as a soldier, it will not be denied that high qualifications in the former are not less essential to the safety, honor, and reputation of our country. In time of war the Navy is to fight our battles, to meet the danger at a distance upon the deep, and preserve our shores from the foot of the invader; surely the Navy should not merely be brave, but skilled in all the arts and resources that decide the fate of battles; versed not only in whatever theory may suggest, but acquainted with all the expedients that have ever been resorted to in extremity of peril by the naval heroes of ancient and modern times. In seasons of peace, our friendly relations with the greatest Powers of the earth are in no slight degree entrusted to the keeping of our naval commanders; for it is only on the common highway that we come in contact with each other, and it is there that our interests and honor are most often brought into collision. No one, then, can deny that the happiness of our country is as much entrusted to the safeguard of the Navy as to the officers of the Army, whose most important functions go no farther than to keep the peace with the wandering tribes, whom we continue driving before us into the wilderness. At all times our ships of war are the representatives of our country in every quarter of the globe; it is chiefly by the worth, by the intelligence, and by the courtesy of their officers, that an estimate can in those distant regions be formed of the nation that sends them forth. Surely, then, our national honor, and the consideration in which we are held by other countries, that consideration concerning which we are so sensitive, and which, how-

ever condemned by some, proves a strong motive to excellence, are not less entrusted to the keeping of our naval officers, who visit every region, than to our soldiers, who are only seen by those who, coming among us, have the whole nation before them. It is not our object to draw invidious comparisons, with a view to undervalue the Military Academy; we desire not to depreciate the Army, but to vindicate the Navy. Instead of restricting the efforts of that noble institution, we would willingly see the most practical and perfect education in America extended to a double number of our youths, who should convey the seeds of science to every corner of the republic.

"Our ideas of a Naval Academy are, that it should be established in some healthy, isolated situation, with the sea in sight, and constant opportunities of witnessing the manœuvres of arriving and departing ships. The age of admission might be twelve years, and the term of service four years, making the youths sixteen at the time of graduation; at this age, with their previous training, they would be able to serve some better purpose on ship-board than that of play-things for the older officers. The system of discipline should be rigid, yet paternal, under the superintendence of a most carefully selected officer. Mathematics would, of course, form the groundwork of their education; but we would not urge its pursuit beyond the point necessary to render intelligible the various problems of nautical astronomy; upon this would afterwards be raised the superstructure of physics, astronomy, navigation, surveying, naval architecture, and the theory of working ships. In connexion with these more solid studies, a knowledge of history, of the laws of nations, and of the rules of composition, should be acquired. The French and Spanish languages should be thoroughly taught by natives, and the more advanced classes should be able to understand lectures in both languages. An infusion of young men of French and Spanish parentage, from Louisiana and the Floridas, would greatly facilitate this most necessary acquisition. Drawing would be a highly useful accomplishment to naval officers. As for general literature, we would leave them to acquaint themselves with it hereafter, during the abundant leisure of their future profession, doing no more to cherish a taste for it than to provide a well-selected library, in which travels, naval chronicles, and whatever relates to the sea should not be forgotten, and from which all idle books of a sickly and demoralizing character, such as form the chief mental nutriment of modern readers, should be most carefully excluded.

"Nor would we be satisfied, as in most seminaries, with merely training the mind; we would bestow equal care upon the unfolding of the bodily powers, and strive to send each aspirer forth a perfect Lacedemonian. No young man should wear a sword until he could wield it to some purpose in defence of life or honor. The chief of our exercises, however, would be found in the manœuvres of a small ship; not moored in the mountains, as at Angoulême, nor planted upon dry land, or rather on the tops of trees,

as at Amsterdam; but a real, moving, live little ship, that could lift her anchor and sail away at will. In such a ship reefing, furling, steering, and all the manipulation should be performed by the lads themselves. Each class should have its proper station; the junior class should do the hauling and deck-work; the next would know enough to become topmen; those who should have served a year longer would fill the stations of forecastlemen, petty officers, and helmsmen; the senior class, having learned a lesson of obedience and subordination in each succeeding gradation, would now in turn exact equal deference in the character of officers, and be stationed in various parts of the ship, each directing the efforts of his more youthful and less experienced gang; while one of this number would in rotation be invested with the command of the whole, under the ever-watchful eye of the superintendent. An allotted portion of every fine day might be employed in stripping or rigging ship, or in reefing and furling; one day in each week should be exclusively appropriated to a cruise round the harbor.

"During at least one entire month of every year, we would set the whole school free from study, and keep the lads constantly embarked, organized, and stationed for evolutions and for battle, like the crew of a regular cruiser. In this interval we would not merely have them reconnoitre the coast, and become pilots, but brave the ocean, visit various ports, and penetrate our noble rivers. We would not deny them the cordial attentions, which their proud and admiring countrymen would hasten to render to them, wherever they appeared; and we can conceive no vacation so delightfully spent as would be this of our young aspirants after naval glory. Seamanship, taught in the way that we thus suggest, would be taught most thoroughly; nothing would be left to accident, or individual ambition and desire of excellence, but every youth would be forced to become a seaman and an officer. We can see no reason for withholding the institution, which justice, not less to the navy than to the nation, claims from our legislators, but the plea of economy. To remove this, we would suggest that the lads should be clothed and rationed upon a regular system, at the public expense; parents would be happy enough to procure their children such an education on any terms, and as for the boys, they are quite as well without money. We might find another source of economy in abolishing the expensive examinations, which now furnish a poor substitute for preparatory education.

"It has been suggested that, in the event of our having a Naval Academy, an observatory, for which we already possess the necessary instruments, should be connected with it, and the professors be constituted a board of longitude. The suggestion is an admirable one, and we would improve it by the additional idea, that the institution should contain a hydrographical *dépot*, for the collection and collation of charts, and for procuring, by correspondence with navigators, naval and mercantile, whatever information might conduce to perfect a knowledge of the coasts and waters of the navigable world. Science gains by concentration, and the

neighborhood of such pursuits would greatly tend to raise the standard of scientific excellence among the students of the academy. The nation which holds the second rank for extent of commerce and navigation, should not depend entirely for the most necessary calculations upon one that is already her rival, and may again become her enemy; nor be the only one to do nothing to improve nautical science, and diminish the dangers of the deep. Pride and policy alike forbid it.

"When our Navy shall be supplied with officers from an institution such as has been suggested, we may confidently look for some new accessions to the honorable reputation which it has already obtained for itself. One of the greatest benefits it would confer, would be found in the probation of mind and character which would take place at the academy, whereby those who are disqualified would be purged from the profession, and, instead of going on disgracing themselves as midshipmen, lieutenants, and superior officers, be arrested at the very threshold. The seeds of good being thus sown, and our young men thus prepared to run an honorable career, much might still be done after they entered upon the active exercise of the profession, by the care and solicitude of the commanders. We think there might be more sympathy between the commander and his officers. Especially do we think there should be, as we know there often is, something paternal in the government over the midshipmen. We think that every opportunity of improvement should be thrown in their way, by not only allowing them to visit the ports where their ship may be anchored, but encouraging them to make excursions into the interior, and bring away more definite ideas of national manners and customs than can be gathered in a visit of a few hours to the shore, the chief of which time is usually spent in the billiard-room. It is in the power of every commander to introduce his officers, everywhere, to the best society, and we can conceive no way so effectual of diverting them from destructive dissipation. The author of the "Naval Sketches" speaks very sensibly on this subject, in describing the occupations of our officers during their yearly wintering at Minorca."

Every sloop of war and smaller vessel should be kept constantly and actively employed. Not a sea, but should be scoured by our cruisers; not a port in which our flag should not be displayed; if for no other purpose, at least to give our officers every chance to acquire and preserve a knowledge of seamanship, and to show that we are prepared to repel aggressions upon our territory, or punish depredations upon our commerce.

Should any of our public vessels be ordered to visit a portion of the globe, now but little traversed, the advantage of having only one officer on board, who had formerly visited the same spots, and could point out the dangers to be shunned, and the harbors for shelter or supplies, would be acknowledged and felt by all.

A vessel should always be kept ready for sea, officered and man-

ned, in each of the principal seaports, Boston, New York, and Norfolk, to meet any sudden emergency; and if nothing better to do, they might make short cruises to sea for exercise and discipline. Nothing so effectually prevents aggression, as the means and the ability to resent it promptly. An adventurous picaroon from the West Indies might hover on our coast, intercept some of our valuable ships, and be out of reach while a vessel of war was receiving her crew and getting ready to sail in pursuit.

Every officer, on his return from a cruise, should have a limited leave of absence, proportioned to the length of his absence abroad; and when that has expired, he should be ordered on some duty. None should be allowed to eat the bread of idleness. It is frequently difficult to find officers near at hand, when wanted, so many of them are domiciliated at a distance from the seaboard, and when ordered suddenly upon active duty, it so often interferes with their private arrangements, that they will make strong pleas to be excused, and offer as reasons that there are enough others ready and willing for service. This is not a healthful state of feeling. An officer is always at his country's command, in peace or in war, and should be ready to obey an order at any and every sacrifice; and it should be a very urgent case which would admit of a revocation of orders once issued. Some officers scrupulously adhere to this rule of conduct; and all would unquestionably do so, if fully sensible of its importance, and if it had not been customary to yield too easily to their demands for longer indulgence.

During the administration of Mr. Monroe, or Mr. Adams, an expedition to the Columbia river was contemplated; but the strength of the opposition in Congress prevented the necessary appropriations. It will not be many years before the tide of emigration reaches the western confines of our domain; as a measure of prudence, an examination of the country should be made, to ascertain if our citizens would be free from molestation, and to determine what other measures must be resorted to, to remove obstacles.

An expedition of this kind would give useful employment to a portion of the Navy, and afford an opportunity for the officers to manifest their zeal for discovery and adventure in volunteering for it.

The friends of science will long regret that political considerations prevented the departure of the exploring expedition arranged by the last administration. Some fruits from that voyage of discovery might have been reaped ere now, and new fields for commerce opened. It is to be feared that the same feeling which frustrated that expedition, will prevent any one of a similar nature being undertaken for many years to come. We must be dependent on foreign nations for our knowledge in geography and hydrography; and we, who can compete with the world in every other respect, must be content to be distanced in the pursuit of science.

It is impossible to compress within the limits of an essay of suitable length for a periodical work, all the views which this subject calls forth, or more than glance at the arguments by which they are to be supported. The most that can be done is to give an out-

line, and lay down general principles, leaving the details to be filled up hereafter. Let any plan be elaborated with the utmost possible care, it will not command general approbation. There are certain principles, however, on which all may agree, and if each one cannot secure his favorite project, he should content himself to come as near to it as practicable.

I may hereafter, should relaxation from official duties afford me leisure, present some views respecting the number of each grade required by the wants of the service, and on the subject of pay. But for the present it is sufficient to state, that the main point—in fact I might say the only one—to be attained, is organization. Let all our energies be devoted to that end, and leave minor points to be settled by the wisdom or liberality of Congress, or open for future discussion.

When an officer arrives at the grade of Captain, and finds he has nothing higher to look for, his ambition must be checked—his motives for exertion and for excellence are certainly lessened. But hold out to his view, a still higher aim, a nobler recompense, and his efforts will not be relaxed, nor his hopes abated, until he has reached the highest pinnacle of his earthly aspirations, or death cuts short his career in the pursuit.

PREBLE.

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#### TO THE OFFICERS OF THE ARMY AND NAVY.

From the excitements of politics and the struggle for gain we are exempt. Our salaries shield us from poverty and luxury. Our useful education, and its accompanying ordeal, place us, at twenty-five, on a level at least with the educated of our age. Our opportunities of observation in every department of knowledge, of access to books, and of leisure sufficient to improve all these advantages, are far, very far, greater than those possessed by most of our fellow-citizens. The obligations imposed by our education and position forbid that we should neglect them. They require that we should do more than pace the parade ground or the quarter deck; yet what is our intellectual condition? The question is delicate and important.

The midshipmen, trained in frequent contact with the world, and in collision with active and emergent duties, are soon characterized. Having, at irregular intervals, acquired the science requisite to their profession, they are led by travel and their intercourse with society, to occupy their leisure with literature of the lightest and most entertaining kind. The number of students is necessarily small; of these a very few are devoted to general science; the

languages, geography, and history occupy others; and the remaining and larger portion are engaged in studies exclusively professional. A knowledge of international and maritime law, highly creditable to the service, has been occasionally displayed. We have had an interesting book of travels, and numerous productions of less pretensions, exhibiting more frequently the ability and opportunity of the writer than care in making or recording his observations. The files of the Navy Department contain, it is true, numerous evidences of the abilities of particular officers; but apart from the fact that only a small proportion of the officers have the opportunity of thus appearing before the Department, these productions, whatever may be their character, acquire for their authors neither professional distinction nor general reputation. The numbing influence of the want of incentive to intellectual exertion is painfully felt. Professional excellence is sought and obtained. Society demands only the lighter accomplishments, and the tedious hours of lonesome leisure are more readily passed in the dissipation of superficial literature, than in the labor of thought.

The officers of the army, educated in seclusion from the world, subjected to a severe course of mental and physical discipline, impelled to exertion by the most powerful incentives, acquire uniform habits of application and thought, which peculiarly fit them for a life of intellectual activity. Those acting as professors at the Military Academy, some of those on special service and staff duty, to whom an inducement to exertion is offered, exhibit gratifying and useful evidences of their industry and capacity. The remaining four-fifths of the officers tread the monotonous round of peace duties, and find in them no inducement to exertion. Unsupported by the powerful emulation which originated them, their habits of study languish, are renewed at intervals, and finally sink into the indolence of mere reading, or the light exercise of an occasional essay. Idleness, to him who has once felt the pleasure of regular mental exertion, is a punishment most severe; it renders him impatient and unhappy. The consciousness of capacity unoccupied, of his own uselessness and culpable self-neglect, renders idleness anything but repose.

Setting aside the text-books at the Military Academy, and the papers called for by the various duties devolved upon the officers, there remain only a few clever productions, transient as the newspaper paragraphs, that noticed them.

Whatever may be effected in the course of duty, is little known beyond the Department, and even there, is insufficiently regarded in the distribution of the few professional distinctions which may be allotted to merit. The sub-departments, under whose orders the officers act, fully appreciate their services and abilities; that their opinions are sometimes disregarded is a necessary consequence of the transient tenure and political character of the post of Secretary of War.

Whatever may be the causes, the final answer to the question, as to our intellectual condition, is far from flattering. In science,

we have done but little; in literature less; and nothing in either, above mediocrity. It is to us a grave reproach. We have failed in the great purpose, the principal duty of life—self-improvement and general usefulness. No unction of professional excellence or of indolent vanity can soften this unhappy truth.

Why is it, that our brother officers who engage in civil pursuits, rapidly press forward to success, and with far less leisure outstrip us in the very acquisitions in which we should excel? Our own happiness, our self-respect, the pride of profession, every inducement which can operate upon good purposes, urge us to exertion.

It will be said, and truly said, that however clearly convinced, there are few who have sufficient force of character to study for self-improvement only. The mass of students, like the husbandmen, require that the results of their labors should spring forth to view. Motives must be sought and applied to arouse and sustain exertion. It will be asked, where are these motives to be found? We have no medium of communication with each other or with the public. Official decorum forbids our thrusting before the Department volunteer memoirs; the transient, superficial, and degraded character of the newspapers forbids a resort to them. The reviews have furnished opportunities for occasional essays, but their small volume, limited circulation, and peculiar character, render them unavailable to us. The amusement and slender reputation even of a paragraph writer are denied us; much more the opportunity of general usefulness.

I admit all this; I admit that, while exterior circumstances remain as now, we will find it difficult to escape the reproach of inactivity; but is it impossible to change these circumstances? The distribution of professional distinctions is beyond our control, save through the medium of public opinion, which will be a powerful prompter in favor of merit, when that merit shall be made apparent. Indeed, the errors we now perceive, arise rather from ignorance of relative merits than from intentional favoritism. Among the Heads of Departments are gentlemen devoted to general science, as well as to professional studies. The present Secretary of War is himself deeply imbued with the knowledge and love of letters. Can we believe that these gentlemen would disregard capacity made manifest? The higher the character, the greater the usefulness and reputation of the officers, the fewer will be the abuses of which we have to complain. The moral influence of the ruled will be the guide of the ruler. The correction of the evils experienced would be the consequence of the intellectual activity, which would confer happiness upon ourselves, would extend its commensurate usefulness to the public, and would receive from it an appropriate reward.

Could we meet together and discuss all the reasons which urge us to the change, the objections of the indolent, and the sneers and cavils of those who oppose every proposition, would be harmless. We should be agreeably surprised by the richness and variety of our intellectual stores. Let each individual select the pursuit most

pleasing to him, and we should find the entire field of knowledge occupied. A large number, led by taste and habit to the exact sciences, would divide upon the various subjects to which they are applied, would gather all the information touching the branch selected, and mutually imparting and receiving information, would extend farther and farther the light and the benefit of science.

Practical mechanics has already among us many votaries; it is one of the most pleasing and useful pursuits. Jefferson prized his work-shop scarcely less than his library. Chemistry will be sure of votaries, wherever the facilities for its pursuit are afforded. Our opportunities to aid in the development and growth of the infant sciences of mineralogy and geology are great and peculiar. Scattered over our territory, and moving at intervals over every section, we have full time and opportunity to examine, note and report our observations. The naval officers, visiting every country, can at least during their stay, gather specimens which may be compared and classed with those we have collected at home.

From us alone can be gathered observations sufficiently numerous to give to meteorology the form of science. Every vessel, every naval and military station, and every detachment, should be furnished with a thermometer and barometer; to these should be added a hygrometer and hydrometer. Daily observations, accurately reported, would, by comparison with each other, furnish important general results.

Many years since, a distinguished gentleman proposed to have observations made contemporaneously throughout Virginia, on the direction and force of the winds—the temperature, moisture, and weight of the air—with a view to ascertain the true theory of winds. We have the means of realizing his wish, to a far greater extent. Throughout our whole territory, and on board every vessel, these observations can be made with the utmost accuracy. This is an important branch of natural science, and is as yet unexplored. To agriculture and aeronautics it would furnish essential practical aids. In botany and ornithology our opportunities are equally great. What would not a single year achieve, could Audubon grasp all the observations we have leisure and opportunity to make? Every bird, every plant and flower, from Houlton to Petite Coquille, and from Fort Marion to the Rocky Mountains, we can examine.

Where are the topographical descriptions of the unsettled territory? Where the sketches of its climate, soil, and timber—the character of its rivers, their fitness for navigation, their rise and fall, with the periods of their occurrence, and the effects produced, whether healthy or unhealthy, whether leaving on the soil a sediment of sand or loam? Where is the account of the Ouisconsin, and the country through which it flows—of the Neosho—the Red River, &c?

We hear of a flood of the Arkansas, and of crops destroyed; but as to its causes and the likelihood of its recurrence, for aught we know of them, it might as well have been a flood of the Niger. Even now, an artist, who accompanies our detachments, interests

the public and acquires reputation for himself, by narrating that which we disregard as too trivial for record.

Where are the topographical surveys of the frontiers? Why is Featherstonhaugh in Arkansas, and Schoolcraft on the Upper Mississippi? Is the Department alone in fault? Had we shown interest in these examinations, think you the Department would have sought elsewhere for observers of what is under our own eye?

But, I am going too far. The field of inquiry is too spacious to be sketched, and every added line would be mortifying to professional pride.

To the naval officers we must look for collections of antiques—of nautical surveys—for descriptions of foreign people and countries; their manners, commerce, and institutions; their climate, soil, and productions;—with the countless amusing and instructive incidents, which their opportunities of intercourse with every grade of society will furnish.

To each and all of us attaches the obligation of examining closely the organization and regulation of our several services; and promptly and respectfully to expose the evils we may perceive, and propose the remedies which may have occurred to us. To those, whose tastes lead them to studies, exclusively professional, the improvements of tactics—of military and naval “materiel,”—the study of strategy—the collation of various engagements, and the judgment of them by the standard of correct principles—the illustration of our own wars, and the investigation of our own military resources, both for attack and defence, would furnish ample occupation. To those, who choose to study men, rather than the abstract and descriptive sciences, comparative history and morals offer the most fascinating and improving entertainment.

You ask, how is all this to be effected? The Heads of Departments may do much by proposing specific subjects of inquiry, and by causing the necessary instruments to be furnished. The officers of high rank may do much, by aiding with their influence and example. But the essential step must be taken by ourselves. Fortunately, it has no opposition but prejudice. It is, to cast off at once and forever, the odious system of ANONYMOUS communications. Fear of power originated it; fear of detection has continued it. It is the barbarous relic of power that would not listen, and suffering that dared not speak. The masqued murderer takes life with impunity, and the masque of an anonyme shields the assassin of private character. We would utter nothing that we would not avow; we would say nothing of power, that we would not say to it. Away then with the unmanly masque. Will it cause personal collision? No! it will generate a spirit of courtesy. Who will not act courteously and honorably, when he feels that the eyes are on him, of all those whose good opinion he desires? In the warfare of anonymous communications, we pierce the masque, without thought of the wound we inflict on him whom it conceals, but shelters not.

We have a journal exclusively devoted to the Army and Navy. We can meet at our various stations, and declare our approbation of the proposition. This will suffice. No officer will hesitate to affix his name to a communication, after his brother officers have declared their opinion. Impelled by a common sense of duty to ourselves, and to our profession, each one will press forward with his intellectual offering, confident that no unkind criticism will welcome it. We may surely hope that the Secretaries of War and Navy will conform to the general wish, by directing the publication of the memoirs and reports officially rendered.

To those who doubt the *adequacy* of the incentive thus furnished, I would point to France, where the proposition has been partially applied. The effect has been electrical. Memoirs, reports, and essays on every conceivable subject, have flown in from the officers; nor is it confined to the military. The name is affixed to the lively tale, as to the scientific essay, and the public knows where to locate its censure and its admiration.

It may be, there are those who fear that, for a time at least, the exhibition would be little creditable. We have no reputation as writers; therefore can lose none. The Military and Naval Magazine, as now filled, is the only index by which the public can judge of our literary character. The important change need occasion no feelings of uneasiness. The newspapers of the day, busy with politics, will not interfere, unless with an approval; and the final result, when we shall have been fully aroused to exertion, would welcome public observation with pride.

It may be feared that official duties will frequently exclude these pursuits. An active mind will find in the intervals of duty, ample leisure to record thoughts and observations. The alternation of occupations will make life pass more pleasantly, and will secure us from the inactivity and infirmity to which many students are unhappily subjected.

Could we, by embracing this proposition, prepare the way for its general adoption in the country, we should confer a greater benefit than by gaining twenty pitched battles. When masques are off, the same courtesy that governs conversational will govern written intercourse. Ability and purity of character will have their due weight, and men will no longer dare to erect themselves into public instructors merely because they have been bred as type-setters, or have been unable to succeed in any other employment.

As the first step in an important, an essential social reform, it is our duty to take it;—we, who by accidental position, are enabled to do it with ease. As a measure which will improve our minds, add to our happiness, our usefulness and reputation, duty to ourselves and the service demands its adoption.

I sincerely hope that it will find in the mind of every officer an advocate more capable than the

WRITER.

## TO THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

SIR :— Will you allow a spectator to offer a few suggestions in relation to the administration of the affairs of the army? Its efficiency, honor, and well-being require that its commander have a just and proper influence with the President and Secretary of War; and that its operations be conducted in a just and impartial manner. Such an influence cannot be obtained and continued, unless it be based on the esteem and confidence of the army. These can be acquired and maintained only by a rigid course of justice and impartiality, rendered to all. It is necessary that the confidence and esteem be reciprocal with the commander and the army, that the officer at the most distant post may feel a perfect assurance that his rights and privileges will be guarded as securely as those who may be revolving around head quarters.

When you were placed at the head of the army, you had many advantages over your immediate predecessor. From your youth, you had been familiar with military details: and many abuses, then existing, were expected to be reformed by you. You had, in early life, been associated in the army with some of the most distinguished and accomplished military characters; and your early predilections for the military service were too ardent not to profit by their instructions: Whereas your predecessor entered the military service at a comparatively late period of life, and uneducated in military affairs. He was active, shrewd, and had many other excellent traits in his character for a military man; but it was his misfortune always to be involved in private warfare; and being naturally suspicious, he ever imagined some one was watching an opportunity to spring a mine under him; and moreover he was always apprehensive that both Houses of Congress were watching his actions. Under such circumstances, it cannot be thought strange that he should have his favorites to reward, and that he should frequently pursue an object in an oblique and circuitous manner, when his march to it should have been direct.

But you, sir, came to the head of the army under most favorable circumstances; in the vigor of life; an accomplished officer, and an experienced soldier; and had "rendered the State some service."

The Commanding General of the Army is not a cabinet officer, though he will necessarily be consulted and listened to by the executive, commensurate with the weight of character he sustains. His situation is more permanent than that of a cabinet officer, or of the President of the United States,—he is the permanent head of the army, to whom all look for the protection of the few privileges which a soldier can claim, and for redress when oppressed.

The President and Secretary of War are politicians, and hold their places for limited times, by the voice of the people. Hence

it will not be deemed very extraordinary that they should bestow their favors *sometimes* amongst the strongest friends, or where may be the strongest recommendations; and these not always in proportion to merit, modest merit. But you have none of these impediments to encounter. Your course is direct, and, when thus pursued, will insure the respect and esteem of all from whom it can be prized. You are also in a different situation at Washington from those at the heads of military bureaus; they are at the head of a few officers of the staff, to whom they prescribe forms, and whose accounts they assist in auditing, &c.; and it is said there is sometimes a rivalry amongst them, in trying to see who shall get the most liberal (as they term it) allowances for the officers of their respective departments.

But even to them, who are unconnected with the line of the army, this policy is hardly creditable or credible. Most of them were once efficient officers in the line of the army, and held more important situations than they do now; it is much to be regretted, if they have forgotten their former associates, and become so exclusive. If it be true that one of the generals commanding a department, is more attached to the staff and one corps of the army than the whole, then there is still a greater reason why the commanding general should be known only as the head of the whole.

Had you possessed and exercised the influence which the commander of the army ought to possess, would the ordnance and dragoon corps have been appointed as they were?

That every officer in these corps is highly respectable is not doubted; but is it always the case, that the best drill-officer, the best clerk, or he that has the most experience in mechanics, is the best fitted for a department of ordnance? Or, are too speculative minds always safe to lead in so important a branch of service? It is said that such persons are competent to all the duties now required, which consists in inspecting occasionally a few cannon and muskets, mostly for the militia; in the erection of a few buildings for military stores, and the repairs and construction of a few gun-carriages, &c. This may be true, but the time may come when the department will be elevated to more importance, and when more important services will be required. That some of the officers are men of superior attainments is well known; but it is doubted whether there are not some who are competent only to the present services required. But if, in the organization of the department, such services only as are now performed were held in view, then you might, without injury to the service, have rewarded many others, by conferring some more of the appointments on officers who had rendered a series of faithful, meritorious, and gallant services to the country. The officers of this corps do not estimate their attainments above most officers of the army; in speaking of each other, they certainly do not.

Suffer me to say a word in relation to the army regulations. It is expected, in case a revised set of general regulations for the army shall be adopted, that your exertions will be used to make

them *general*, and what they purport to be,—that their provisions, allowances, &c. be impartially distributed. No one can doubt but that those now in force, with all their additions and revisions, amendments and supplements, were made, as far as allowances to officers are concerned, for the special benefit of the staff of the army; for the heads of bureaus at Washington, and those officers acting as their clerks.

Can you convince any one, except a quartermaster or a bureau officer at Washington, that quarters and fuel are more expensive at this place than New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston, &c.? What is allowed for annual rent of quarters at Washington, with the addition said to have been recently made by the present Secretary of War, will almost buy a set of quarters at this place. I apprehend that no one but a quartermaster sees the justice of the regulation which allows an assistant quartermaster, though he be only of the rank of second lieutenant, double the allowance for quarters and fuel, which a captain receives. It is said that the quartermaster general was the cause of these regulations, which, with some others, have rendered the book so odious to the army generally. He may have been beset and importuned by some around him to advise the measure, and may without reflection have done so; but there was a time when no one would have viewed those things with more disapprobation and indignation.

In relation to brevet rank. To make this estimable and honored, it must be conferred according to law and merit only; that the question need never be asked by any one in the army, or any one familiar with its operations, *why* it was bestowed. It should be bestowed in such a manner that the receiver may not be caused embarrassment or a blush, should the question be asked by any others. Will not the selections that have been recently made for this rank give much uneasiness and pain to many an old and meritorious officer who has not received this honor? Have not many of them, who held much more responsible situations, and executed the duties pertaining thereto most faithfully, stronger claims than some of those selected for this distinction? No one will say, (or the person who now addresses you will not,) but that all who received brevets were worthy of them; but were not many others, who did not receive them, equally so?

It is believed that those officers, against whose brevets are the words, for "*faithful and meritorious services*"—if by these remarks it is meant to distinguish them from many others of the army,—will feel a blush upon their cheeks, and see that they are thereby placed in an invidious situation. These officers, no doubt, are meritorious and accomplished; but have their *situations* been such as to enable them to render such services as to entitle them to these remarks, "*faithful and meritorious*," in contradistinction to many others? If not, will not the army naturally inquire the names of their *relations, connexions, and friends*?

A quartermaster, for instance, may have promptly and efficiently performed his duties; but the most important of these are such

only as are required of what is termed a *forwarding merchant*: and what does he expect, when he has done his duty? Good and prompt pay; certainly not a brevet with rank, that would give him a precedence over his peers.

As to the brevet of Brigadier Towson, it is believed that the army will not complain, unless it be on account of its irregularity, and the apprehension that a field is opened which may make brigadiers too common. Are not the paymasters, commissary general of purchases, and the surgeon general, equally entitled to them? Some of these once held a rank in the army, and honorably exchanged, during the late war, their natural limbs for artificial ones. But if the brevet be considered regular, and it be not the means of making brigadiers too common, and it be pleasing to Brigadier Towson, all ought to be satisfied; for no one more richly deserved the honors he received for his services during the last war (not the Black Hawk war) than he did.

Brigadier Jones seems to have received his brevet without the remarks, for "for faithful and meritorious services," or having served ten years as a colonel, but perhaps his is based on his colonelcy, as it *should* have been dated: if so, the army will not complain, for he has been a most faithful, accomplished, and active officer, from the time he entered the army; and received two brevets for gallant services during the war.

Permit me to call your attention to the manner in which details are made for the Engineer, Ordnance, Commissary's, and Quartermaster's departments. In making details for these departments, you will be consulted, and, in most cases, can dictate.

Soon after the present executive came into office, an order was issued, by which all officers, more than two years absent from their companies, were to be relieved, and return to company duty, and others were to take their places. This gave great joy to the subalterns of the army; they saw a hope of being occasionally relieved from garrison duty, where, in time of peace, that sameness of routine renders it tedious. But how soon were their hopes blasted? The work had hardly commenced, when, by counter orders, supplements, explanations, qualifications, and revisions, every thing was reinstated; and those who had been two, three, five, and seven years from their companies, were as comfortably and safely in their seats as they were before the order was published. Unless this order was made for effect, (eclat) as some are inclined to believe, why fret it all away by counter ones? A double evil was rendered: pleasing expectations were excited, which were never to be realized, and the incumbents were unnecessarily alarmed. None will pretend to say that the services rendered by these incumbents were beyond the capacity of most, or all, the graduates of West Point; or, that those on this duty were in any respect superior to most others. I will do the justice to say, that I believe both the commanding General and the Secretary of War were sincere when this order was made; but you, at the time, were not fully aware of the influence and importunities of friends. Is not a character for

stern and inflexible justice, even if at times tempered with harshness, of more consequence to a general, than what is termed a conciliating, accommodating, and compromising character?

In making details for courts-martial, is it not practicable, and can it not be done without prejudice to the service, to make these from rosters to be kept at the several head quarters of departments, and at the head quarters of the army, instead of selecting officers for this duty, as now practised, when those at or near head quarters generally get the duty, if it be desirable to them. If courts were composed by detail, and of a full number, justice, without even the imputation of partiality, would be more likely to ensue, and many an officer, whose head has been bleaching at some post in the wilderness for a series of years, would be delighted with now and then a prospect of changing his vegetable state. Moreover, that certificate, "a greater number cannot be detailed without *manifest* injury to the service," which sometimes carries on its face a little too much of the appearance of romance, to be received with the gravity becoming the source from which it emanates, would be avoided.

There can be but two objections,—expense, and the depriving of those near head quarters of a pleasant tour. As to the expense, if that be a serious objection, lower the price of transportation. But it is believed the difference of the expense would be too trifling to be noticed. We have ever been more celebrated for affectation of, than for real economy; the late regulations reducing the rates of transportation seem to partake too much of this nature. The object to be obtained seems hardly worthy of the glowing and spirited appeal contained in the preamble: it was like discharging a battery of twenty-four pounders at sparrows.

Suppose the appropriation for the quartermaster's department should fall short a few hundred or thousands of dollars? Is it the first time, that even its apprehension should be so astounding and alarming? The discussion of the merits of the other objection is referred to those interested. That the Commanding General has sometimes in his official conduct been improperly influenced by unworthy persons is not impossible. Some orders, especially some parts of that of No. 48, which reflect so severely on the army, and which were so soon countermanded, are supposed to have been the offspring of such improper influences.

One word more, in relation to orders and restrictions in the army. Are there not too many of the latter already upon the army? Many undoubtedly are necessary; but they should not be multiplied unnecessarily. Their faithful observance, and the happiness of those to whom they are intended to apply, require that they should be as few as a faithful execution of public duties will admit. Too many prohibitions not only injure the reputation of the army, by presupposing an unwarrantable licentiousness to exist, but they frequently make many a one discontented and unhappy, by reminding him of something, of which, perhaps, he would not otherwise have thought. For instance—you may make one very unhappy

by saying to him he shall not have leave of absence till after three years of service in his company, and then only for thirty days; and after his application has gone five hundred or a thousand miles, perhaps, to the commanding officer of his regiment, who is stationed in an opposite direction to the commanding general, who must approve of it before he can have this liberty. With such a prohibition suspended over him, he will count the months and days of his probation; whereas, had he not previously been reminded of it, he might have served out the whole term of his probation without knowing the restraint he was laboring under. There are few, who do not preserve some of the propensities of youth, and who may sometimes be made very unhappy by being forbidden even to bite off their own fingers, or to bathe in a frog pond with their clothes on. You may even render one very disquiet while in the pursuit of game in a forest, which is separated by an imaginary line, dividing two countries, by prohibiting him from passing this line; although, had there been no inhibition, perhaps he might not have crossed it for years.

The order for the change of the day of company inspections was the cause of much surprise and regret to most of the army. Sunday morning has been the time for the inspection of the ranks of the army, ever since we had one; and this was in accordance with the custom which prevails throughout Christendom, where every head of a family sees that all under his charge are, on this day, neatly and cleanly clad, becoming the day and fitting its services. This custom, no doubt had its origin from the belief, that when persons appear the best, they feel the best, and that when they feel the best, they behave best: for it has been observed by an elegant writer, that a person when neatly and genteely dressed is much less likely to demean himself in a base, grovelling, and unbecoming manner, than when in rags and dirt; and we all know that most persons partake, in a greater or lesser degree, of the feelings of the character they attempt to enact. In confirmation of this, make the appeal to the person in his royal robes on the stage, or to the child who attempts to enact the character of a man? This inspection did not generally occupy more than fifteen minutes, all the preparation being made the day before. As it is now, Friday is the day of preparation, and Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath, the day on which all are in their robes, fitting to be received in the best places and holy temples. This might be well, if the majority were Jews, but as it is now, they are dressed for a brief hour, for as labor does not cease on Saturday, they are dressed but for a moment.

That the motives of those who petitioned for a dispensation of Sunday inspections, and of those who gave the order, were good, is not doubted; but it is doubted whether they duly reflected on the subject. Had they petitioned for a dispensation of the drilling and manoeuvring of the troops on Sunday, they would have had a much stronger case, and many of the members of the army, who also are members of religious societies, would have united with

them. As this subject has been well and ably treated in a former number of the Military and Naval Magazine, these hints are offered only to show my concurrence with that writer.

These remarks have been made without the slightest disrespect to any officer, and in the full belief that the object of those from whom all orders issue, is firstly the good of the service, and secondly, the comfort and accommodation of the army.

Under the fullest impression that most of the grievances now complained of, would be redressed, if they were respectfully laid before the proper authorities, the writer suggests the propriety of officers, when they suppose themselves neglected or reflected upon by orders, to make known their case in a respectful manner to the authority from whom redress can be obtained, instead of secretly brooding over them, and with difficulty, perhaps, suppressing a "d——n the order and the authority whence it came."

Neither the executive nor the commanding general, it is presumed, has any object in view, in administering the affairs of the army, but its efficiency, economy, honor, rational enjoyment, and happiness; and when their orders conflict with these, it may charitably be supposed that they are either uninformed, or misinformed by the unworthy and designing. Hence, like faithful sentinels, it is the duty of all to be vigilant in giving correct information where the public good is concerned, or where the interest or honor of any one in the army is involved.

Should the feelings of any one in the army be injured by any of the foregoing remarks, the writer, in advance, tenders an apology by saying it was not intentional in him, and that he is sorry—very sorry—for it.

It is expected, that all who read these remarks, and who are on good terms with themselves, will, in all instances, where they suppose themselves alluded to, put on the most favorable constructions to themselves, always excepting such constructions should be prejudicial to the writer. Those who are not on such terms with themselves, it is hoped, will not read. Should any take offence at what is said in regard to lowering the rates of transportation to officers, the matter may be compromised by letting it remain as it is, for the higher ranks; and as it is the duty of all company officers of regiments of foot, to march on foot, none need be allowed them; besides, the service requires that they be inured to marching. Let the motto of the order of the garter, which the writer cannot add, be, in imagination, prefixed here.

MENTOR.

**ARMY MEDICAL BOARD OF EXAMINATION.**

More than half a century had elapsed before it was deemed of sufficient moment to place the medical staff of the army of the United States out of the reach of the connexions of every political aspirant, whether they had or had not the requisite instruction for duties so important. This arose from our political institutions, which evince in their construction a rare jealousy of every system which imposes any restraint upon the liberties of the citizen. Hence, in every department of our government, applicants for official stations crowd upon the Executive, of whom thousands have no other pretensions than such as may be ascribed by fond relations, anxious guardians and teachers, or interested friends.

The President, standing alone in the midst of his immense patronage, can only act by borrowed light, and the only remedy for practised imposition is a recall of commission, on actual proof of disqualification or turpitude. No doubt some evils have resulted, and will continue to flow from this constitution of the republic, but it is better that an occasional mistake should exist from the exercise of the Executive pleasure in filling offices, than that any, the least, of our privileges should be put to hazard. A broad exception, however, should be imposed where the personal safety of a bonded man is concerned. This relates to the soldier. For just and honorable purposes even freemen are compelled to be held in certain restraint for short periods, to promote the interests of their country. War is a grief imposed upon the world, from the very constitution of our nature, and hence under human institutions, no matter how governed, seems inevitable. A portion of the people who are willing to make the sacrifice, are constituted soldiers, and these battalions, in every well regulated military service, are held in honorable estimation. The pacific tendencies of our government have given less motive to maintain standing forces than any other country; hence, her regular army has been always small. It might be called a squelette, upon which to collate the sinews of war in pressing emergencies. In the organization of this small body, great care has been paid to the education of its officers, and throughout all its details every comfort provided for the rank and file, with the single exception of a *classical selection* of medical men to form its staff. This most important consideration, so long neglected, happily occupied the attention of our present Secretary of War, General Cass. Endowed with a capacious mind, highly cultivated, and being an approved soldier of our camps, he could not fail, from his abundant opportunities, to perceive that such a guard to men's lives should be erected as to put it out of the power of any pretender to obtain commissions in surgery. He accordingly digested a plan for this purpose, aided by the experience of the surgeon general, Doctor Lovell

This gentleman, although now in the performance of important duties, which have no direct action upon medical science, has been most liberally instructed in every department of his profession, and he has enjoyed every application of its principles, in its most imposing requirements, in general army hospitals and in the field of battle. His activity, fidelity, zeal, and capacity, during our late arduous conflict with Great Britain, engaged the attention and secured the regard of our highest officers, and soon after its close he was justly rewarded with the rank he now holds with so much honor to himself and benefit to the service.

It was a matter of mortification to this officer, that frequent charges of incapacity were preferred against the members of his department, and of corresponding regret that no adequate remedy could be formed to correct the evil. His feelings became more acute, as his requirements for additional surgical aid proved urgent. The medical officers did not compose a very large body, but it loudly called for correction, and as all of them had been appointed and confirmed, agreeably to law, it was a subject of doubt, how any general procedure could be brought to bear upon them, without violating chartered right. With a President, too, who has always been exceedingly jealous on constitutional law, it required clear grounds to carry into activity any scheme, promising efficacy, and at the same time leaving the subject his full and equal liberty. This could be accomplished but in one way, and it was adopted. There are two grades of service, surgeons and assistant surgeons, the surgeon being made from the assistant. To insure fidelity to the service and to guard against embarrassment, President Jackson, contrary to the practice of his predecessors, commanded that no man should decline regular promotion; and all who had not previously declined should be bound to receive it, in the order in which their names stood in the register of the army. In this condition of the service it was evident, that if an examination of the general staff could not be made, yet that as the grade of surgeon required a new commission, with confirmation, and none could refuse it, he at least could be examined; and by *anticipation*, an examination could be ordered upon every assistant who stood in such liability. Happily, this included nearly the whole staff. From the very nature of surgery, all who practise it, in our dispersed service, must stand upon a perfect equality as it regards fitness; hence, if a man is not competent to discharge the duties of surgeon, he is caught in the fact, and it is held proof conclusive that he is incapable of sustaining those of any other. It would not meet the views of the Department to permit any one to refuse this examination of *anticipation*, because he might be required to take promotion when it would be impracticable to convene a board for his exclusive use.

Acting upon this suggestion, the Secretary announced his intention of scrutiny, by the publication of the following decree, dated 6th July, 1832:—

"No person will be hereafter permanently appointed or promoted in the medical staff of the army, until he has passed an examination before a proper board and received a favorable report therefrom. A medical board, to consist of three surgeons, or assistant surgeons, will be detailed from time to time by the orders of the War Department; who will examine the qualifications of all persons authorized to present themselves for that purpose, and will report to the surgeon general their opinion thereupon. In the execution of this duty, the board will rigidly scrutinize the pretensions of each candidate, and report favorably upon no case admitting a *reasonable doubt*. The health and lives of the officers and soldiers are too important objects to be committed to ignorant or incompetent hands."

This beautiful annunciation is truly without circumlocution or the least obscurity. In the shortest possible space all is openly declared, not only what would be exacted from the board, but also what the army surgery was about to sustain. It was a triumph to the soldiery, never to be forgotten. The active campaign against the Black Hawk Indian Chief, interrupted the execution of this design for a short period, but all those who received appointments as assistants, about this time, were noted as *conditional*, and consequently were not only to be examined as original appointments, but also would be subject to a second ordeal, before receiving confirmation as surgeons.

The army being stationed over an immense expanse of country, the medical officers quartered with the troops could not be concentrated at any given place; hence a travelling board was instituted, and directed to visit all the occupied posts, and in connexion with their primary duty of examination, they were required to inspect the condition of the hospitals, and report upon them. Some of the garrisons of the Western and Northern frontiers, were so remote that it was feared the board would not be able to visit them in time; an order was therefore issued for a preparatory board to assemble in New York, to examine a few candidates to be forwarded to these distant regions. This was accordingly done, and supplies were sent to Leavenworth on the Missouri, Snelling at the falls of St. Anthony, and Brady at the Sault of St. Mary. The New York board, consisting of surgeon Mower and assistant surgeons Russell and Macomb, met on the 15th of January, 1833. When every thing was fully prepared for a general examination, the following order and instructions were issued from the War Office:—

**ORDER,**  
No. 4.

HEAD QUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, 25th January, 1833.

I. By direction of the Secretary of War, a medical board will be convened in the city of New-Orleans on the 1st of April next, who will proceed to examine the qualifications of such persons as may be designated through the office of the surgeon general, under such instructions as they may receive from him; and such candidates for appointment in the medical department as may be authorized to present themselves for that purpose, and to report to the surgeon general thereon.

II. The board will consist of surgeon **THOMAS LAWSON**, President; surgeon **THOMAS G. MOWER**, and assistant surgeon **SAMUEL B. SMITH**, members; who will receive the same allowances as are authorized by order No. 114, of the 13th December, 1832.

III. In case of the absence of either of the members, surgeon J. P. C. McMAHON will, on receiving notice thereof from the board, supply the vacancy  
BY ORDER OF MAJOR GEN'L. MACOMB:  
R. JONES, Adj't. General.

The instructions alluded to in the order were issued by the surgeon general, being dated 1st February, 1833. After advertizing to the order, he gives in detail the names and stations of all that were to be subject to the power of the board.

The instructions then proceed to say: "after having examined those who may report themselves at New Orleans for that purpose, the board will proceed to the several posts in such order, as to insure their arrival at St. Louis by the 1st of July, at which time and place, candidates for appointment in the medical department of the army will be directed to assemble; and it is supposed that the intervening period will be sufficient for the examination of those stationed in the vicinity of New Orleans, and at Forts Jesup, Towsen, and Gibson. From St. Louis, the board will proceed to the remaining posts, in such order as they may deem most advisable, to enable them, if practicable, to reach New York in time to finish the examination at that place.

"The board will establish its own rules of proceeding. The junior member to act as recorder. The report required by the regulations will be signed by the president and the recorder. It will state all persons who may have been examined, and designate those who shall have received a favorable report therefrom, in the order of merit, to be decided by a majority of the board." The remainder of the instructions relate to the hospitals, requiring them to be inspected, and expressing a wish for any suggestion for their improvement that the board might deem advisable.

The board, thus organized and instructed, assembled at the appointed time in New Orleans; and from that city journeyed to all the posts in order, until they arrived in New York, late in September. It will be seen by the chart, that this travel embraces the great terrene belt of this extensive empire. The instructions were literally fulfilled. The report of the board, on the subject of their duties in this great tour, would be too voluminous for insertion here. The board was prepared for some remonstrance against this new, and to some, appalling, procedure; but those who raised objections were made sensible that the order was a *command* which would brook no evasion, and from which no escape was possible. A single exception occurred from design, and the delinquent was stricken from the rolls of the army by the President, as soon as he became advised of his refusal to be examined. It is worthy of remark, that there were but two absentees, from the places designated for their appearance, and whether these were from accident or design is now of no material consequence.

It would not comport with the dignity of the government to say what was the individual result of this extensive investigation. The board had but one sentiment, and that was to discharge their duty without fear or favor.

The numerous rejections of candidates for appointment, clearly demonstrate the vital necessity of this interesting course to the army. Upon the close of their duties in New-York in October, the board proceeded, by special order, to the seat of government, where their reports were completed and their acts approved; shortly after this, a new mission was arranged, having for its object the examination of a remnant of the staff who were on the southern sea board, and who could not be visited in the first tour. This journey extended to Fort Mitchell, in Alabama, embracing the posts in the harbor of Charleston and the assistant surgeon at Augusta Arsenal. This duty was also performed in due season, and the board returned, by order, to Washington City, where, after a session of a few weeks, in March and April, 1834, for the examination of candidates, they were finally dismissed.

In the course of duty, the board was compelled to report several cases of disability from constitutional diseases in the conditional appointments. These cases engaged the attention of the War Department, and an order was issued, granting new powers to the board, embracing this subject, as well as that of immoral habits, making both legitimate causes for rejection.

The nature of the decree of the 6th of July, made it imperative that the examinations should be severe and minute, and they were so. A full knowledge of the great branches of anatomy, surgical anatomy, surgery, and medicine, was a *sine qua non*; and the auxiliaries, obstetrics, application of chemistry to medicine, and pharmacy, were considered of so much importance, as to find very marked distinctions between those who understood them, and those who had neglected them. No particular systems on doctrines were made standards, but all authorities, held in general good repute, were deemed satisfactory. One view of the requisites for appointment seems to have escaped the notice of the Honorable Secretary, and that is age. No applicant should be over thirty, or, in the extreme, thirty-five years. A more advanced age will necessarily injure the staff, because too short a time will intervene before the decays of nature will admonish the interested parties, (the givers and the receivers of medicines,) that confidence must cease between them. This will lead to early pension, for the laws acknowledge no disqualification except moral obliquity. Most of the American youth are fully educated in the profession which binds them to business for life, before they have attained twenty-five years, and surely ten additional would give experience to principles.

It was not to be supposed, or, indeed, expected, that men who had settled in an honorable station, or those who were anxious to do so, would suffer the rebuke of expulsion or refusal, without making some remonstrance against those who were instrumental in such castigation. Hence, some severe abuse, out of the bounds of truth, reached the Department, on those subjects; but the board reposed implicit confidence in the Executive, and they were not deceived. His fearless assumption of responsibility in all things

which concern the general welfare, gave assurance that on this most interverting occasion he would not swerve from his usual firmness, when conviction had decided.

A statement was made in the early part of this expose, that some assistants had been once indulged with a choice between *that* rank, which left them with their early friends and associates on the eastern sea-board, and that of surgeon with the condition of retiring to the west to the infantry regiments; and that General Jackson had interposed his authority, and put an end to the procedure. Nay, he did more; he commanded that no one who had refused promotion should be entitled to it, or receive it afterwards. The first, for reasons already assigned, was necessary and proper, but there is less of justice in the last decision, than usually comports with that gentleman's conduct. Some men, of approved abilities, had early entered the medical staff, and having children to educate, could not, without great sacrifice to them, be transported to distant regions where instruction could not be obtained, and the difference of pay was so trifling, that it would do little towards providing education apart from home. Time might obviate the objection to removal, but what is to remove the mortifying barrier?

It could not have been intended as a punishment, because in *that design*, all such as had been appointed and promoted in the west, would be ordered away from *their* friends and property to the eastern hemisphere! The writer of this paper was once in company with two surgeons so appointed and promoted, and it was distinctly understood, that both would abandon their commissions rather than obey any order for a removal to the Atlantic States.

It is now a part of our military arrangement that examinations in surgery and medicine shall be established from time to time, in such places as may be most expedient, before an applicant can be permitted to join the staff. The efficacy of these examinations will principally depend upon the moral fitness of the examining board. Competent talents for all necessary scrutiny will always be available; but no talent, however brilliant, can compensate for the want of *moral courage!* Without this, every honorable barrier will be broken down, the whole system brought into contempt, and finally abandoned.

S.

**THE MILITARY LIFE OF BENJAMIN BASTION,****LATE OF THE ARMY.****LETTER II.**

AFTER the knight of the shears had retired, Owenley reminded the company that time flew and the evening approached. "Jack," said he, "you were ever ready to furnish something from your storehouse of the brain; do not suffer memory nor invention to fail you on this pinch."

"You must know, gentlemen," began McGlendy, "that I spent the greater part of my two months at Feltsdam, on the wild and picturesque banks of the Juniata. I had been on a visit to an uncle some ten miles off, and was returning homeward on horseback"—

"Without the remotest idea of seeing a bear," shouted Ned, in great glee.

"No, on my honor, Ned, this is no bear story."

"Oh, oui! sans doute, there'll be no bearing your story—it may turn out a great boar!"

"Ordher, ordher, Mr. Chairman, I call that spalpeen to ordher. Be the powers! I wish I'd a pair o' scissors; I'd clip the wings of your wit, so I would, Mr. O'Quiddy. Don't ye know, Neddie me darlint, we've a great dale to do to-night and won't be finished when we've done in the morning"—

"Any more than we are now—there comes a *bull*."

"Order, gentlemen, you delay business. Go on, go on, McGlendy."

"Well, I was returning on horseback, musing on the difference between my present life of comparative excitement and that which it had been. I balanced the sweet and pure, though simple, pleasures enjoyed in the retired corners of the world, by those who limit their desires to humble and indoor enjoyment, with the rapid succession of unnatural and hurried excitement in the polluted air of a crowd, and I decided at once for the former, and made a resolution to seek happiness at last, in

— "some calm sequestered spot,  
The world forgetting, by the world forgot."

I overtook a farmer, footling it along as fast as his low pressure organization would permit. His dress was not a century behind that in which Irving has invested old Hendrick Hudson and his followers. In one hand he bore a hickory cane, and the other supported a German pipe, from which a fragrant cloud arose, scenting the evening air, and coming up, like grateful incense, to the nose.

"Wery poetically described, wery," interrupted Ned—and "wery" was re-echoed through that hall till a general guffaw fol-

lowed. Ned, the gay little sprite of a fellow, laughed till the tears ran down his cheeks.

"That's a nail drawn from the last box," said Bob Rappett, with solemn gravity.

"At least it's a backward turn of a screw," said Scheldt.

"Och! plase don't be asther mentioning such a thing—'twas that same infernal '*screw*' that turned me back."

"And some beautiful lines were written on the occasion—don't ye remember in '*Rhymes for June*,

The 'fessor now came with warped surface and screw,  
And my fate was decided I very well knew.

But, go on, McGlendy."

"I accosted Mynheer with a good evening. After gazing stupidly at me for some time, he returned my salutation, and asked, 'Did it rain domorrow?' I replied I thought it would. 'I dink so neidher,' rejoined he, eyeing the heavens just as a duck does before a thunder storm. I rode home, indulging an occasional laugh at this odd scene, at the expense of the poor Dutchman. When I at length sat down, the ludicrous took absolute possession of my faculties, and I indulged in a hearty peal of merriment. The very words of the man were nothing in themselves. It was the heightening circumstances—the stolid gravity of a phlegmatic Dutch face—the incessant puff from the eternal pipe, as if to accelerate the flow of idea and enable him to furnish it forth in words—the upward turned, lack-lustre eye—the shapeless mass of skin and gristle that made up his nose—the hat, dress,—all had filled my mind with droll images. My mother and sister came to see with what new spirit of fun I was possessed, but I could only answer them with a fresh burst. At length, in the pause of almost exhausted nature, I found breath to tell them that I had just met a queer-looking Dutchman, who asked me if it would rain to-morrow; that I answered, I thought so, and that he added, I think so, too! You may well suppose they could'n see the point of my story."

"Jack must have drawn all the nails out of his last box, hey, Rappett? But where's Scheldt?" said Ned.

"Gone to say farewell to the fair Julia, and, may be, get a parting kiss," said Owenley; "Jamie has made good use of time. He has won the fair—qu'il soit heureux. You know they were sweethearts at school, and their loves have been ripened by their growth. Notwithstanding this preference, matters had not so soon been arranged, but for the oppressive conduct of the vulgar old parvenu, her father. He wished her to marry a gentleman who, like himself, had acquired fortune from small beginnings, having once sold radishes and pins at the corner of Maiden Lane and — street. The old man knew she had no heart to give, and yet threatened and begged her by turns. She obtained a respite until James came down here in June, and he, finding how matters stood, proceeded at once to Mr. Ellseller, stated frankly his priority of claim to the lady's affections, and much to that gentleman's credit, obtained a

renunciation of all right, title, and interest therein. Fortified with this, he presented himself before the father and asked of him his daughter. He was refused in the coarsest manner, *on account of his profession*, and the house thenceforth forbidden him. But mountains melt and obstacles vanish, even like the mists of the morning, before the sun of true love. Jamie found means to see her often, and at length eloped with her at noon-day. They were soon overtaken by old Bruin, while waiting at the ferry, and a compromise was made, by which he is to receive the father's consent, provided he obtains a commission in the Engineer Corps. The old fellow was very acute in that matter, for he has reason to believe this condition to be impossible."

"Not so much so as he flatters himself," cried all, at once—"here's success to our noble friend, God bless him; and may the dearest wish of his heart be crowned with complete fulfilment."

The next day, Owenley and I strolled over the city to see those objects that attract the stranger. The renowned Battery, now beautiful, was then unworthy of comparison with that mall, under whose ancient elms and sycamores I had gambolled when a child, and strolled and sighed by moonlight, when a stripling, first beginning to feel the tender influences of blue eyes and soft hands, at Turner's dancing school, of a Saturday afternoon. The same refreshing breeze, however, came across the broad bosom of that noble bay, to invigorate the votary of health, and revive the bloom in the cheek of beauty. Then the Park, par excellence—the City Hall, that semblance of a trumpet-major, with party-colored coat—the musea—the baths—the shops—the crowd—oh, how delightfully imperceptible is the passage of time, when one has before him an outspread world of novelty; an unbroken succession of gay and busy scenes, whether we move through them, or taking our comfortable seat near an ample window, suffer the pageant to pass in review. My companion was possessed of a poet's and a painter's nicety of taste, and I derived pleasure and profit from his observations during this morning's excursion.

"See that huge temple," said he as we proceeded, "it looks for all the world like a very fat man with a very small head. If this be a church, who would suppose *that* to be one, its neighbor? Its steeple is so disproportionately tall and heavy, that one might well conceive the architect to have been employed to build a 'light-house of the skies,' and that the body of the church was intended to be the hut of the keeper. Doubtless the sects to which they belong are as much opposed in doctrines and tenets as are their outward and visible shrines, and both may be as far from the true faith as those structures are from orthodoxy, in point of comeliness and proportion. As in London, there are in New York a few very neat churches; but as a general rule, the public buildings are not wisely planned, nor well executed. I think this owing to the indiscriminate employment of uneducated builders, many of them foreigners, who are thus allowed to fix these eye-sores upon this community, and to perpetuate a bad taste. Neither chaste ornament, nor per-

manency, nor use, appear to enter into the calculations of these Gothic, hand-to-mouth projectors, but they go on inflicting these night-mare conceptions upon an unresisting community, until the very walls cry out against the evil. May some friendly hand be stretched forth to awaken ye, and scare away the incubus!"

"Have we no American architects, who might get up a national style?"

"Yes, plenty as blackberries, and there is truly something like an American style, judging from the specimens exhibited in our principal cities, viz. the absence of rule, order, shape, proportion, and fitness in construction. One half, at least, the dwellings in town and country look as if they had been reared without any other plan than what may have suggested itself in the progress of the work, and the five orders, pure and mongrel, are stuck and jumbled together here and there, as though the desired object were variety, and nothing else. We have received from the ancients the purest specimens of a chastened and correct taste—why attempt innovation? The orders are the result of calculation and experiment, no less than of the invention of a people long celebrated for their nice and refined judgment in all the beautiful arts; and did we content ourselves with the modifications required by modern customs and limited space, preserving at the same time proportion and propriety, our architecture might challenge criticism, and I feel sure, our national pride would be flattered in pointing the stranger to objects worthy imitation. In erecting an edifice, public or private, let one of the 'orders' be chosen, and then let every dimension, moulding and ornament be derived from the best specimen of that order *alone*, pure and unadulterate. Then would no longer be seen such incongruities as now deface the Capitol at Washington, and the State-houses generally throughout the country, where, one would think, greater pains had been taken to depart from every ancient rule of taste, than to follow the glorious models offered to the choice. The eye should not again be offended by the view of a fine Ionic portico, whose columns rest upon Tuscan bases, resembling a fine lady, handsomely dressed, with her feet encased in clumsy brogans, fit only for a clodhopper, as you will see in the War Department at Washington; nor a mongrel Corinthian capital, and no base at all, like the fine lady gaudily or fantastically clad, and standing bare-foot! But here's the great Bonfanti's. Let's look at his wonders."

Having finished the morning, we returned to the Hotel. How different the eternal flood of the human current along the spacious "trottoir" of Broadway, to stem which required address if not force, from the gentle and unfelt ripple along my own Queen street! Here was an incessant throng—a swarming of the insects of fashion—the roll of gay equipages and the lumbering of laden drays, mingled up into one general hum. There, every one knows his neighbor and those he meets, while all is staid and sober, though busy and noiseless movement.

After dinner, our baggage was carried on board the Richmond,

which was announced to start at five P. M. for Albany. On arriving at the boat, we found the decks crowded with passengers and their friends, who had accompanied them for the purpose of taking leave. For although a trip to Albany was not quite so serious an affair as when undertaken in former days, when the individual made his will and stepped on board the sloop amidst the blessings of weeping friends, bestowed upon him with half-choked utterance, yet it was a matter of far more moment than now, and few departed without an escort of a few relatives or business friends, induced by affection or interest to prolong the conversation to the last moment.

Scheldt was accompanied by his father, a florid, good-looking, middle-aged man, whose face beamed forth benevolence and kindness, and his younger brother. We and others were strangers in the land, and had formed no acquaintances, even among those whom the distant prospect of some coming profit could command to our side, on the occasion of our departure from among them. If any one in this great city at this moment had claim to be with us, it was the gallant Brigadier, whom we had lately treated with sufficiently little ceremony when he had visited us on his proper business, armed with just demands.

When we had seen our trunks safely deposited and paid *Tummas* his fee, Odshaw invited us below, to take a parting glass in a bottle of undoubted "Sillery Mousseux," intended, as he said, "to be a sort of connecting link between the memory of pleasures past, and those which might come hereafter." This was readily complied with, and the General, after a few quite fatherly and friendly remarks to all upon the noble pursuits and great career of arms, gave as a sentiment—"may you all obtain the elevation to which a generous ambition directs you," which was received and drunk with much enthusiasm, since it was construed to bear directly upon Scheldt's case.

Soon after five o'clock, we were rapidly leaving the dust of the town, progressing at the rate of eight knots. So many able pens and pencils have furnished descriptions and views of the beautiful scenery of the Hudson, that I shrink from the attempt to add any thing here. It is sufficient that the green banks and pretty villas—the palisades in their rugged grandeur—the numberless white sails shooting across our path in every direction, like meteors in the blue sky—the whole stirring scene of life and activity around—all received in turn their due share of admiration.

Not being entitled to berths, being only way passengers, we accommodated ourselves after a soldierly fashion, and obtained very comfortable cats' naps, wrapped in cloaks, with inverted chairs for pillows. Some time after midnight we were roused by the cry of "West Point baggage," and the tinkling of a bell. I ran on deck and strained my eyes in every direction to catch an early glimpse of the highlands, and rocks, and all, about which I had heard so much, and desired to compare with those half-formed notions. But all was thick darkness round, impenetrable to the eye. Dense

masses of heavy clouds hung over head, and the high banks and mountains surrounding and shutting out our position from all the world, formed, as it were, the ceiling and sides of an immense hall, fit dwelling for Erebus and his wife, or for existences of much more doubtful character.

The quarter-boat was lowered away with our trunks, and we followed, passing by an officer of the boat, who seemed to inspect our persons by the aid of a lantern, as closely as an adjutant selecting his color-guard. In another moment we were scrambling ashore on a low wharf; our trunks being summarily tumbled after us. I felt relieved from an apprehension of danger when I found my feet upon terra firma, for the manner of this precipitate advent to the wharf was really novel, and fraught with much risk at any time—particularly so in a dark night; and I was indignant at this very unceremonious handling of our persons and property. None of my companions complained, so I concluded it was "the way" and said nothing. They, doubtless, were accustomed to such flights of ground and lofty tumbling.

Scheldt wrote all our names on a slate in the hands of a bombardier sentinel, and leaving our effects in charge of a porter, whose dexter hand was of iron, we proceeded leisurely up the ascent to the plain.

After a somewhat toilsome walk, carrying us up some hundred or two feet above the river level, we came to a gravelled path, leading along beneath a range of trees and bounded by a regular line of fence, forming the enclosures in front of the professors' houses. I could just discern them as we passed, and they named them to me as Old Haughty's, Pic's, the Colonel's, the Old Man's, Doug's, &c. I knew and felt I was on the far-famed "Plain"—that I was surrounded by those objects almost familiar to me from description—the corps in their barracks—the chapel, mess-hall, all on a shelf-like position, high above the river—but all shrouded from the eye and ear in the stillness, the darkness, and the silence of night. I was filled with emotions of grandeur and awe, and I never land at the Point now, without feeling those early and strong impressions renewed in all their freshness.

My companions now turned suddenly to the left, and one of them knocked at the door of a building, whose front was at right angles with the path along which we had approached it, and stood screened by tall shady trees at one extremity of the plain.

"This is the mess-house," said McGlendy, "kept by one Billy C——s. In this end of the building the officers have a mess, and strangers are accommodated with a nice comfortable bed and most excellent fare. Let me recommend it to you, to eat as heartily and sleep as soundly as you can, so long as you may be allowed to stay here, for many a long year may roll by, ere you lay your tired limbs so softly or feast so sumptuously again."

"Don't you come here to get a dinner, when you feel inclined, and can pay for it?"

"Alas! alas! that other wing of the house is the cadets' mess—

hall. Well—not a king's privy chamber—not a harem of a wealthy Turk—not a confessor's box is more sacred from popular intrusion, than these luxurious apartments from the presence of those, who are doomed to 'eat their peck' in yonder hall. Although it is prohibited under severe penalties even to come to this door without a written permit from the Superintendent, and then only to see a parent or friend, yet I have heard of one who tasted the forbidden fruit, disguised as one of the Board of Visiters. He passed very well at table, but on leaving it, heard some one mention a name—so I slipped out and"—

"Oh, ho! 'twas you then," cried Ned, "you, Mr. Goodboy, even now enjoying the reward of meritorious conduct! I suppose the next time you desire to regale yourself, you'll go to the Colonel's table, disguised as a Mexican colonel, or a British captain, or it may be, some still more difficult character, eh?"

"What has been done may be again accomplished, doubtless. You remember Thims—well, I'll tell you that story another time—here's Monsieur l'Hote, en haut la."

We had been knocking a long time, and no one stirred within the lone mansion. But now C——s himself thrust his head out of the window above. "Want lodgings, gentlemen? Sorry to say, all full, every bed—two in a bed up stairs here—dining room full of cots, and sofas all occupied."

"'Tis n't for ourselves, Mr. C——s, but here's Colonel Bastinado, of the British army——"

"Oh, no doubt, Mr. Quiddy, but no British Colonel can get a bed here to-night." So saying, he shut the window, and left us in outer darkness.

"Why the devil must you raise your pipes, Ned, you've spoilt all, and deprived Bastion of his bed. But for your own confounded invention, he had been comfortably bestowed ere this. We must try old Grid, however, even that 'll be better than coming to the cold hard floor;" and Scheldt led the way past the chapel and barracks, across the corner of the plain and through a high gate to a wooden edifice on the bank of the river, in front of which stood a sign-post. Our tarantara on the door was answered by howls and yelps from a dozen varieties of dog, uttered in every possible modulation, of which the canine throat is susceptible. Then the first mutterings of an awakened sleeper joined in the concert, and as we continued our blows and kicks at the door, the human sounds gradually increased and became predominant until their nearer approach gave them distinctness. "Who and what raggamuffins are you that comes and breaks honest people's sleeps at this 'ere time of night? If you want any thing, say so—if not, I'll shoot the first of your rake-helly crew that kicks that door again." He suddenly threw it open as he spoke, and the strong concentrated light of a dark lantern fell upon our unexpecting orbs with such intensity of brightness as almost to take away the power of vision, and he then as quickly closed it again. "Oh yes," said he, "I know you, for a prowling pack of plunderers as wants to rob my house

and reputation. So clear out as you came, or I'll shoot at you. You want lodgings, do ye? Go where they're to be had then. I've none for such as you."

"Rather an unaccommodating publican that," said Scheldt; "but Grid knows well which side his bread is buttered, and has excellent reasons for his conduct to-night. When he saw us by the light of his infernal torch there, and almost put out our eyes, he judged from the frock coats that we might be officers. So, without giving time for explanation, he commenced blustering as an honest householder ought. No doubt he had some grey jackets in his house, and was therefore more pugnacious. Had he thought us of the same cloth, the door would have closed with its other side upon us, and bed, board, and drink would have been furnished readily; he gladly taking clothing, blankets, and other dispensables at one-twentieth their value in payment.

After some discussion, as to where I should be lodged for the night, or morning rather, it was at length decided I should make another trial at Mr. C——'s. Accordingly I returned to the mess-house, accompanied by Scheldt only. The same be-night-capped head popped out of the same window as before, and a similar reply as to the impossibility of getting a bed. My friend had spoken in a feigned voice, and he now added, "So, William C——'s refuses to give shelter to his former friend, General Scheldt!"

"Lord bless my soul—'tisn't possible! Well, I thought I knew that voice. Very glad to see you, General, 'pon my word. Why didn't you tell me at first? Wait a moment. Here Tom, Peter, Jacob, open the door. Who would have thought it, that I should n't have known—Tom, Peter!"—and the voice died away as he went down stairs.

Before we had time for congratulation at this successful "ruse de guerre," Jem was receiving a most cordial welcome. The host shook him by the hand, made a thousand apologies and overwhelmed him with flattering terms, the current of which was arrested by the appearance of a light. "What, eh? oh! it's you, Mr. James, ah, ha! I see how it is—glad to see you, though—like father, like son—from furlough, eh? hope you left the General well—come in with your friend, make yourself at home."

"I hope Mr. C——'s will excuse this little pit of a play-off upon his good nature—but really, I did despair of gaining admittance in any other way. This is Mr. Bastion, a new cadet, and comes recommended to your good offices by the General, who requests you to treat him even as his own son, my own self."

"He shall have the best bed in the house—very happy to make your acquaintance, Mr. Bastion. What, up to your old tricks yet, James? But come, you must have one more good night's lodging—you shall sleep here—you've not reported yet, you know—so, no danger—you must be thirsty, too, after being in the cold night air. I beg you'll make yourself at home. Good night!"—

So saying, Mr. C. disappeared, and Scheldt took me into the din-

ing room, where we found a light burning and a sideboard open, containing the choicest materials for an evening libation. In a few minutes we were both soundly oblivious in two of Billy's most comfortable beds.

The next morning I awoke to heart-stirring strains of military music. At first was a single stroke of the bass-drum, followed by the clear tone of a bugle, and then all the instruments swelling into sweeter harmony. This was repeated three times, being what is called three cheers—then a slight pause—and the band struck up a beautiful waltz. I jumped out of bed and ran to the window. Heavens! what a scene of enchantment was before me! Stretching out immediately beneath the eye, was the plain with its rich green covering, here and there intersected by three or four paths, generally converging at the barracks. On my left was the row of trees, along which I had passed in the night, the neat white fences and the houses, from behind which rose steep hills, covered with evergreen and forest trees. In front was the "battery" of six or seven field pieces, arranged in the most exact order, and above it floated the broad folds of the national ensign, emblem of the strong arm of power that exercised undisputed and salutary sway on all assembled round it. Beyond, rose the towering, rugged crows' nest, with its bare summit and rocky sides; and its rival peak, the Bull's neck, or Bull hill, formed two mighty barriers, between which, at their feet, slept the noble river, with scarce a ripple on its smooth surface. A little to the right was a long, antique, white-washed, barrack-looking building, occupied by soldiers. Fort Clinton and the other river bank completed a view, bright with the gilding of the morning sun—glorious in natural beauty.

Near the middle of the Plain appeared a detachment of cadets on parade, going through the ceremony of guard-mounting. It was the "beat off" of the "troop" that awoke me, and I now saw them wheeling into column for a march. The enlivening music of the band was again heard and the guard moved off in common time, under the direction of a staff officer. As they changed direction they came towards me, and changing again, they passed off in quick time towards the barracks. I had time to notice them carefully. First came the drum-major, that important and most peacockly personage, regulating the direction and progress of the band by the graceful flourish of the gold-headed "baton." Next, appeared the handsome form of a sergeant in full uniform, carrying a small musket across his right arm. The bright red sash, dangling its long tassels from his left hip, and contrasting beautifully with the white of the pantaloons—the grey coattee, with its three rows of bullet buttons and black-laced edging, giving a highly warlike finish to the *tout ensemble*. Then the steady yet easy movement—the manly and soldierlike carriage of that little corps—the tones of that inimitable bugle, echoing and re-echoing among the hills—oh, it all thrilled through my frame, and filled my soul with hitherto unfelt joy and pride. Confused images of glory and happiness crowded through my mind, and at that moment I was nerved up to

any trial to which I might be subjected. That moment carried me forward to the completion of manhood, and since then I have dated my assumption of the Toga.

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#### ARTHUR TREMAINE.

"It is a strange, quick jar upon the ear,  
That cocking of a pistol, when you know  
A moment more will bring the sight to bear  
Upon your person, twelve yards off or so."—*Don Juan*.

"A moral, sensible, and well-bred man  
Will not affront me, and no other can."—*Couper*.

"The devil you did!" exclaimed Nick Wise, as the squad was dismissed by the "Marcher," after three hours severe "screwing" in the mathematical section room. "The devil you did! and you found it, too, after the queerest fashion. Old Euclid himself would have laughed as well as we, had he been there."

"And did I not find the centre of the circle, I want to know?" rejoined "Boy" Purnly.

The whole section burst out anew into a roar of laughter, whose echo reached the guard-room, and brought out the officer of the day, whose presence each of us considered to betoken a "report" for being "noisy in study hours." Every one, therefore, stifled his merriment till he reached the concealment of the South Barracks, when, with one accord, we reiterated our laughter at the controversy between our brother cadets. Every body knows that it does not require much to make a plebe laugh. Nothing, however, is more adequate to promote cachinnation, than the mistakes or ignorance that may chance to be displayed by a fellow student in the section-room; for, besides the pleasure which cadets, like all the world besides, derive from laughing at their peers, there was in the present case this additional inducement to be merry at Wise's ignorance, it indirectly argued a superior degree of knowledge in ourselves.

On this day, Reuben came into our section, in order to examine us on the course of studies which we had pursued, and were now reviewing, and demanded of Wise, "how he would find the centre of a circle." Nick, for a long time, hesitated—drew a circle on the blackboard—marked a line of chalk here and there, and—rubbed the whole out again. He drew another circle, which he amended till it looked as round, and almost as smooth as the one in the book. Still he could not answer the question. While pondering on it till he seemed to scan every tiny indenture in the white circumference, Reuben again asked him "how he found the centre of the circle which he had drawn."

"You wish to know, sir, where the *centre* of this circle is?" said Wise.

"Yes, sir! where is the centre?"

"Why, about *there!*" said Nick, in utter desperation, and putting his finger on the supposed spot.

This was the partial occasion of our merriment. The same question was asked Purnly, who, having looked in the "Geometry" in the mean while, marched confidently to the black board, and demonstrated the geometrical method, just as it was in the book, with the full assurance of "plus three," for his scientific knowledge.

"Just what I meant," muttered Wise.

But Boy Purnly's self-complacency was doomed to severe mortification, and his expectations of "plus three" were, like many other hopes, "nipped in the bud," by the scrutinizing professor, who told him to demonstrate the "Binomial Theorem." Now, Boy was one of those who are blessed, or cursed, (as the case may be,) with a good memory, on which he too securely relied in his mathematical studies. The consequence was, that he acquired easily by rote, without gaining a full comprehension of the principles contained in the problem.

There never was a more efficient preceptor than this assistant professor of mathematics. He succeeded not only in teaching the science, but was also a great adept in discovering the ignorance of his pupils. It was impossible to impose upon him. His shrewdness invariably detected spurious intellectual coin. He at once perceived that Boy Purnly had recited *verbatim* from the book; and so, to try him further, he required him to demonstrate that "great gun" of algebra, the "Binomial." But Boy was in nowise daunted. He put down every letter, and sign, and figure; and raised the binomial to the ( $n \times 1$ ) power—just as it was in the book; and recited, with all the glibness imaginable, the various "permutations and combinations"—just as they were explained in the book.

Reuben twisted his whiskers, first into one corner of his mouth, and then into the other, and threw himself into various awkward positions, waiting with impatience for an opportunity to "fundle" the Boy. This soon occurred; for while he was going swimmingly on with, "now it is manifest, that the form of these products must be subject to the same laws, whatever be the number of factors; as may be shown by other evidence besides that from analogy," (just as it is in the book,) Reuben seized the instant, while the Boy paused to take breath, to ask, "What—is—*analogy*,—Mr. Purnly?"

The poor "Boy's" hopes of "plus three" were thus blighted, and instead of "fanning utterly," he was constrained, "to show his tail,"—to the evident delight of Nick Wise. Reuben was not a whit less amused; but he had, like Natty Bumppo, the faculty of enjoying a silent laugh, which did not exhibit itself by any outward muscular manifestation.

Indeed, the section, generally, felt but little sympathy with the

confused "Boy." In his discomfiture they beheld the prostration of a rival; and so apt is intellectual strife to harden the heart to generous emotions, and to cause emulation to degenerate into envy, that they beheld it with pleasure.

Boy Purnly stood on one foot—then he rested on the other—rubbed out the letters from the black board, and then wrote them down again, crossed this *plus* sign to an exact right angle, and made that *minus* sign precisely horizontal; broke the chalk into small pieces, and threw them into the chalk-box; in fine, he made all the usual "signs" of "fessing."

"Analogy," at length he began, "analogy is—as may be shown by other evidence besides that of analogy :" (said he, repeating to himself the words of the book,) "it is manifest, that the form of these products, must be subject to the same laws, whatever may be the number of factors; as may be shown from, from—no, *by*—other evidence, besides that of analogy. Analogy, sir," said he, recovering a louder tone of voice, "analogy is—*plus* or *minus*—No, sir, I did not mean so. Analogy is—other evidence besides that from—Analogy, sir, is—Analogy ! I know what it means, but can't express it; it is n't in the book, sir. It is not in the lesson."

This reply, as may be supposed, "made a great laugh at the time," as Charley Snilloc would say.

The laugh of Wise, however, was amongst the loudest. His mirth was particularly obstreperous and became especially annoying to Purnly, who felt highly chagrined that he, who so showed his own ignorance, should ridicule him "merely for not knowing his dictionary." Their controversy commenced, while out at "Number Nine"—the 'Change of the corps of cadets, and was continued directly the section was dismissed, and was resumed after they had reached their room, which was, unfortunately, the next to mine. Nick was most provokingly pertinacious in his raillery, and being endowed with more equanimity, kept his temper under control, until at length, Boy retorted with undue sarcasm, mimicking him by saying, "I guess it would be about *there*," (putting his finger on the wall,) and in calling him "Centre-of-Circle" Wise.

"And you are Analogy Purnly. What is analogy? Why, analogy is—*plus* or *minus*," responded Nick, (mocking him in return.) "Analogy Purnly—*plus* or *minus*, especially *minus*—in the upper works."

"What do you mean by that?" exclaimed Boy, in a passion.

"Why, I mean, that I don't want much evidence from *analogy*, to prove that you showed a *plus* tail, and a *minus* head," replied Nick.

"And if you did," retorted Boy, "you could have seen evidence enough in yourself, you misnomer you."

"And what do *you* mean by *misnomer*, Mr. Purnly?" asked Nick, getting angry in turn.

"Nothing! sir," said Boy; "only your sponsors in baptism made a devilish bad joke when they called you Wise, and a devilish good one when they named you Nicholas Orde Throgmorton."

"You are d——d impertinent, sir," screamed Nick, in a fury, "in throwing out insinuations against my ancestors. You A. S. S."

"But speaking in pretty plain terms of yourself," said Boy.

"You are a puke, sir—that's my opinion; you are a puke," rejoined Nick.

"So one might think," said Boy, by the quantity of *blacking* that I have caused you to throw off, you boot-lick."

This was one of the most opprobrious terms in the copious vocabulary of cadets. It roused all the ire that remained in lethargy in Nick's heart, which oozed out through his fists in the form of a severe blow at the Boy. A scuffle ensued, which roused the neighboring cadets, among whom was Charley Snilloc and Black Dad, so called to distinguish him from Drummond who was of a lighter complexion. After they had looked through the windows, they came into my room where Drummond and myself were sitting. "Those plebes are hard at it, Ned," said Drummond, addressing Black Dad.

"Yes, it's quite annoying," said Ned. "I had as lief have a catamount to room with me as a plebe—begging your pardon, Tremaire—with their howls of plus three, merit rolls, and blackboards, waking a fellow up from a comfortable snooze. Why, will you believe it, Dad,"—(when the two "Dads" were together, the nickname was exclusively applied to Drummond, the initials of his name giving to him the higher right to it,) "will you believe it, one of them dared to come into my room and asked me the other day if I was ever '*up best*.'"

"And what did you say?" asked Dad.

"I can tell you," interrupted Charley Snilloc, "that he was asleep."

"Not exactly," said Ned. "I told him that *he* must be in the section of Morpheus—meaning that he must be dreaming, you know—and that I was trying to reach there—and so I turned over on the other side."

"Well, did he take the hint?" said Dad.

"No! d——n him!" replied Ned; "he wanted to know if Morpheus was a professor!"

"Well! what then?" said Dad.

"What then?" replied Ned, "why, the fellow hung on like the tooth-ache, and asked me if I was fond of mathematics! I hate inquisitive people; they are so troublesome; so I told him no! but I was fond of—solitude."

"Did he not budge then?" again asked Dad, quite amused.

"The devil a bit," said Ned, "until I told him that he would be reported for 'visiting in study hours,' when he capered out of my room as if Nick was after him. I threw the last of Scott's novels by way of dismissive at the jackass, and tried to get asleep again. Zounds! they are my aversion!"

"*Jactas missilem et aversaris capere somnum*," said Dad. "But, speaking of Nick. Old Nick has got into young Nick here in the next room, I should think, and has made Boy Purnly scratch."

"D——d bad puns, Dad," said Ned. "You have not been bright for a few months past, but I don't wonder at it, for you have been punished enough by these plebes to disgust you with that sort of wit. Confusion take them! they woke me up just now with their infernal brawling. It's deuced annoying."

In the mean while, the noise of the contending plebes had subsided into a dead silence. By tacit consent, they agreed *not to speak*; and each maintained his part of the compact for several days, much to our satisfaction. They would not even wake each other up at reveillé, nor hold any other communication whatever with one another. But the animosity which was engendered by their mutual insults, at length grew too expansive to be smothered in their breasts, and it burst forth in a most serious altercation.

Bill Hamilton said, that "no gentleman would submit to such conduct; and if either of them did, he ought to be put in coventry, or else, treat."

Jerry Dubignon, a long, lank, and lean Cassius-looking sort of a fellow, who never forgave Joe the barber's boy, or Col. Spencer the barber, or Haughty who gave the general order, for cropping his long ringlets which he once sported with extreme fondness; he said, in his prosing way, that "seeing they both were wrathy and ripe, they ought to settle the matter by a duel in a gentlemanly way; then there would be something new to talk about."

"No fear of that!" said Joe Doane. "One's afraid, and t'other durstn't. They'd better treat and make it all up."

The Devil, too, who hoped that the incident might create some fun, was of opinion that "*something* ought to be done; either a duel or a treat, he didn't care which."

Whether it was by his instigation, or that of their own passions, is yet problematical; but on the day after this conversation, the Boy came into my room and asked me, very mysteriously, to walk with him on the bank of the Hudson, as he had some particular business with me. Maurice, who was with me in the room, suspecting the nature of the communication which the Boy was about to make, asked him if he was "one too many, so as to prevent Boy from telling me his business then."

"No! Mr. Maurice," said Boy. "I have every confidence in you, and may call upon you for your counsel in a very unpleasant affair, but I should like to see Tremaine alone first."

I then accompanied Purnly in a walk, during which he told me that he had received a challenge from Wise, through the hands of Hamilton; that he wished me to stand his friend in the business; that January was coming and he was anxious to have it done with, so that he might prepare himself, provided he came off unhurt; he did not like duels, but then it could not be helped;—and, in short, he was a going to accept the challenge."

"Now, what I want of you, Naso," continued Boy, "is to take this note to Wise, or rather to Hamilton."

"But, suppose," said I, "that I can settle the difficulty without any fight? I am not accustomed to these matters, and perhaps Maurice and Drummond may conciliate things."

"Why, it won't do, you see, Tremaine," replied Purnly, "for me to appear to flunk, nor I won't, that's flat! but yet if I could come off with honor without fighting, I would have no objection."

"Well, then," said I, "I will be your friend if I can reconcile matters, but if you *must* fight, I'll think of it further; but it is a piece of business I had rather not meddle with."

"If you don't choose to stand by me, Tremaine," said Purnly gravely, "I'm sure I won't oblige you to. I don't want to coerce any man—but, for God's sake, do if you can!"

"I promise, then, Purnly, to stand by you, through thick and thin, good report and bad report, live or die! sink or swim!" I exclaimed, considerably moved by the imploring look and tone of voice of Purnly, which I thought implied that he was in want of sympathy.

"Thank you! thank you!" said he, grasping my hand with fervency, "I shall never forget your sacrifice for my sake. Now, look here! here are the billets."

He gave me the note that was sent to him, which was as follows:

SOUTH BARRACKS, Tuesday.

SIR: The difficulties and misunderstandings which have subsisted between us, can be settled only according to the custom of gentlemen in *analogous* cases. I, therefore, call on you for that satisfaction which every gentleman may demand, and which no gentleman will refuse. I am, sir, yours.

NICHOLAS O. T. WISE.

To CADET A. S. S. PURNLY.

"Now, did you ever hear such an insulting note?" said Boy, "see here! he has underscored '*analogous*', twitting me again about that confounded 'analogy!' and, see! he has marked it over with those *plus* and *minus* signs!"

I examined the note again and saw what I had not before noticed, but which had not escaped the scrutiny of Purnly. The margin of the note was marked with (X —) the plus and minus signs, and though I could not help smiling at the recollection of the circumstances which gave rise to this quarrel, I yet felt indignant that so needless an insult should have been offered on an occasion so awfully momentous as this seemed to be. It was adding stubble to the flaming fire—it was urging to vindictiveness, passions which should be allayed.

"Your reply," said I—

"Is here," he interrupted.

I read as follows:

SOUTH BARRACKS, Wednesday.

SIR: Your note of yesterday is received. No "gentleman" (to which appellation you seem to aspire,) would have added insult to injury, nor would he have couched a challenge in so uncourteous, vulgar, and *unwise* terms as you have seen fit to adopt. Your note stamps you to be in *no wise* a gentleman, and though I might with propriety refuse you the "satisfaction" which you demand, I will, nevertheless, waive the right, hoping, that if the "centre" of the "circle" of your feelings is in your heart, to put a ball "about there."

I am, sir, yours,

ALFRED S. SIMONS PURNLY.

To CADET N. O. T. WISE.

This note was covered with small circles, with a dot in the centre, and one of them was drawn with a finger pointing to it.

"That's not the 'retort courteous,' Boy," said I. "You have been guilty of the same insult that you complain of. It's confounded cutting though."

"Well, it is the 'retort direct,'" replied he. "I would not have thought of writing such a note, if he had not first done so. He shall have that or none."

"Had you not better consult with Drummond or Maurice?" said I. "They will tell you whether you ought to send it or not."

"No!" replied Boy. "He shall have *that*, if I have to put it on his table myself."

I couldn't, for the life of me, see why this would not answer as well, seeing that the belligerents roomed together. But I knew that there were some forms necessary, and that the agency of *seconds* was considered essential in controversies of this kind; therefore, I held my peace, and took the note. I then left Purnly, and went to seek Hamilton, to whom I was told I must deliver the note. I found him in his room with the Devil and Drummond, and Joe Doane and Jerry Dubignon.

"Come in, Naso, my dear fellow," said Hamilton, "sit down here."

"I wish to see you in *private*, Hamilton," said I, with an important emphasis on the word. I gave him the note, and he left the room.

"It is d——d singular," drawled Dubignon, "that there's so much privacy and secrecy afloat to-day. I am glad I'm not in it, unless there's something going on. It's what I call excessively annoying, not to have some change or other—a treat or a fight."

"*Noxa immodica*," said Dad, "*sine permutatio est.*"

"Yes! any thing," interrupted Dubignon, but mathematics—knocks with Mordecai, or any other professor, and a modicum with Noxen; but none of your "signs, or permutations and combinations." We have enough of them in the algebra.

"That reminds me," said Dad, "of a motto for Noxen, to be put over the door of the soda shop—*Sum Extra Noxam*—which, for the benefit of you, Jerry, and the 'country members,' as they say in the Legislature, I will inform you means, *I am without faults.*"

"Thank you kindly;" drawled Dubignon in reply, "that is a very good translation for Noxen, who *sells*; but I, who *buy*, and don't know your Latin lingo, would prefer to read it after the English fashion; for many a 'sum extra' has he made me pay. It's devilish annoying and d——d vulgar to pay. They might take it out in hair, I should think, since the infernal barber's boy sold mine to Druox, the wigmaker in New York, and seeing that the sody and that *barbarous* shop, as I call it, are all one concern. It's what I call confounded annoying to lose one's hair before he is bald."

"Well, Jerry," said the Devil, "your case was hard; to have all those fine ringlets destroyed, cut off, and deforced from their rightful possessor. It was done out of sheer cruelty."

"I don't know whether it was done out of sheer cruelty, but I know that it was done with cruel shears," answered Dubignon. "I wonder why there is not an order to shave all the hair a man's got, then we would be in uniform. I'm cropped as close as a hog now, and whenever the fourth day of the month comes, I have to undergo a regular trimming. It's what I call confounded annoying."

"But, Jerry!" said the Devil, giving a sly wink to Drummond, "you would not have had any thing to grumble about, if you had not lost your hair. You want some news, you say. I have got some for you."

"Have you? well, I thank you kindly. What is it?" said Dubignon, without changing his drawling tone.

The Devil then took out a paper, on which was drawn, in an admirable manner, the interior of the barber's shop; in which was a cadet, undergoing the operation of having his hair cut to the uniform made, according to a late very unpopular order; Colonel S., the barber, was the operator, while Joe, the mulatto boy, was stuffing the hair in a bag. "Haughty" was standing over him in full uniform, superintending the operation, and crying, "cut it off close, sir! cut it off!" While at the glass, which hung on the wall, was a cadet who had just risen from under the barber's hands, surveying his disfigured cranium with an expression and an attitude which denoted the utmost horror at its metamorphosis. In the distance were a group of disconsolate-looking cadets, awaiting their turn to suffer the "ordeal of ex-section." There was no mistaking him, who was surveying himself in the glass. It was a striking, though a caricatured likeness of Jerry Dubignon. Indeed, the whole was a superlative specimen of graphic humor, which could not fail to be admired and enjoyed—by all who were not caricatured. It created in us a simultaneous burst of laughter, except in Jerry, who muttered, half angry and half amused, "I see nothing to laugh at. It don't look a bit like me!"

This unintentional acknowledgment of the correctness of the likeness, (for no one had said a word to induce him to believe it was intended for him,) caused new and redoubled merriment at his expense.

"This is what I call confounded annoying," drawled Jerry, as he made his retreat through the door. Just then, Hamilton returned, and his serious countenance put a stop to my laughter.

On the next morning, the commandant of the corps found the caricature, or "ordeal of ex-section," in his portfolio on his table. Report said he was "hopping mad," and sent for Gim, the drawing master, and demanded who was the author of it. Gim declared that no one that he yet knew, *could* have drawn so admirably, except Fred. H——n or Wash. H——d.

In the mean while, Hamilton having introduced the subject of the duel in the presence of the Devil, Dad and Joe Doane, (telling me that they were in the confidence of his principal, Nick Wise,) they entered into a consultation respecting the course they were

to pursue. The affair between the parties had assumed an aspect quite alarming; for, Boy Purnly's note had been so much more to the point, and so much more decisive than they had anticipated, they feared that the joke they were attempting to play would terminate in a most serious result.

I learned, much to my surprise, that the note which Purnly had received was written by the Devil and Hamilton, and that Nick Wise had sent it with much unwillingness, and only after repeated assurances that it would be impossible for him to remain in the corps unless he did so. The conspirators confessed to me, that they had only intended to have had some fun, and if Purnly should have chanced to select the Devil for his second, they would have let the antagonists fire blank cartridges, and after "exchanging a shot!" end the matter very amicably over a hot supper at Benny's.

I was in no small degree vexed at this procedure, and feeling a height of resentment which would warrant, and, indeed, which did induce, very decided language on my part, I said with a firm tone which astonished me afterwards: "Gentlemen! I am here as the friend, and in the place of my principal, and will submit to no conspiracies or insults from any one to him. You have carried the matter so far that there is no receding on his part, unless the most ample apology is offered to him by *all* concerned in this under-handed transaction. This I am determined on, and will stand to it with my own life."

The Devil bit his lip, and Hamilton looked lowering, but neither spoke.

"Furthermore, gentlemen," I continued, "you must decide immediately, on what you intend to do; and if you are desirous of reconciling matters, you must first, sir, (addressing myself to Hamilton,) withdraw the insulting note which was sent. And since you have thought fit to associate to yourself a coadjutor, I shall request Maurice to assist me with his experience and wisdom. You have my word." I concluded, and was about to leave the room.

"Stop! Tremaine; for God's sake, stop!" exclaimed Hamilton. I will settle the difficulty, and here, now. But do not yet speak to the party—don't say a word to Purnly!"

"I will call Maurice," said Dad, rising.

"Do so," said I, "but return, if you please, directly."

In a few minutes they both entered the room, and the whole history was explained and discussed.

"I see but one way to settle the difficulty amicably," said Maurice. "Arthur's demands are equitable, so far as relates to recalling the note. There is a reason against the apology of the Devil and Hamilton, because it will make the matter, I fear, so public that it will reach the superintendent's ears, if it has not already. Besides, Purnly does not know of their interference, and as it is not very creditable, I wish it might be hushed. The least said, the soonest mended. Your principal, Tremaine, has behaved very handsomely in the affair, and his honor will remain unimpeached."

I hesitated in giving a reply; for I so much revered Maurice's character, that I knew he would advise nothing but what was strictly correct and honorable; and yet I was not satisfied to receive no apology for the unusual interference of the Duo in a matter which I thought involved life and death. Maurice perceived my hesitation, and divined my thoughts.

"Besides the *sin*, there is another reason why you should moderate your terms, Tremaine," he resumed, "which ought to have weight with you. There never has been a duel between two graduates of the Military Academy,\* and almost never between cadets. Hamilton and Devil will, I am sure, do every thing to settle the difficulty satisfactorily to you and your principal."

"If I may be allowed to say a word, and to make a motion," said Drummond, "I think I can point out a way to accommodate all the parties concerned."

"Say on Dad," said Hamilton and the Devil together,

"And say quick, for time presses," added Maurice.

"*Tempus fugit*," resumed Drummond. "Well! It appears that these two worthies (pointing to Hamilton and Devil) were determined to have a '*hot supper*,'"

"Granted!" they responded with a smile.

"To be washed down, doubtless, with"—continued Dad,

"Some London Particular," said Devil, "that March has sent here to my order."

"And to be seasoned by—"

"Some genuine Schiedam, derived from a similar source," interrupted Hamilton.

"The expense of which supper, including these condiments, to be charged on the principals in this duel."

"Granted," said both.

"Which principals, my chickens, you have clearly proved and confessed yourselves to be," continued Drummond, with a low bow.

"A *D'Agnel* come to judgment!" exclaimed Maurice.

"And, therefore, since we have the assurance of Ecclesiastes, a wise preacher, that 'a full belly maketh the heart glad—'"

"O! wise young judge!" cried Joe Doane.

"Which we don't often get in the mess-hall," said the Devil.

"And since," resumed Drummond, "we have authority as sacred that we must not 'be drunk with wine, but be filled with the spirit'—"

"O! learned judge! O! excellent young man!" shouted Joe Doane—

"And, again, 'since wine is good for the inward parts'—that is—*good wine*"—said Drummond.

"Most rightful judge! O! upright judge!" said Joe, "how much more elder art thou than thy looks!"

"It is decreed, that a supper, hot and smoking, with its various

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\* This is, I believe, a fact; it speaks volumes.

condiments, of wine and Schiedam, company and song, shall be forthcoming, and at—your expense."

"Most noble judge! a Daniel! aye! a second Daniel!" said Joe.

"To which shall be especially invited, both Wise and Purnly."

"Oh, wise young judge!"

"In order to partake thereof, and make up—friends. While we, here present, will adorn your board, and help to celebrate their amity! 'The law allows it, and the court awards it.'"

"Is that the law?" asked the Devil, with mock gravity.

"Thyself shalt see the act," responded Drummond.

"Why, then, the devil give you good of it!" said Hamilton.

"Amen!" responded the congregation.

"But, hold!" said Drummond, with a theatrical air, "before we part 'tis well that we do *taste* this Schiedam and that wine, whose virtues you have so emblazoned!"

"Then, come," said Devil, imitating him; "come to my room when *Taps* have sounded, and all the corps, with Hitch and Granny, do enjoy the honey, heavy dew of slumber,—when nature's softest nurse has weighed their eyelids down, and steeped their senses in forgetfulness, come to the Barracks North! Take heed, however, lest the flagstone, 'prating of thy whereabout,' doth murther sleep, and rouse both Hitch and Granny right upon us."

Bravo! Bravo! we exclaimed, and all, but Maurice, promised to obey the invitation.

Meanwhile, the notes were both withdrawn, and the two cadets were friends again.

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There lately returned to Paris a lieutenant of the French army, who was taken prisoner in the disastrous campaign undertaken by Napoleon against Russia. He was sent into Siberia, and during twenty years of his captivity, never found a single opportunity of making any communication of his existence to his family, who believed him to be dead. Consequently, on presenting himself, his father and mother both rejected him as an impostor; for, in addition to the changes effected by time and suffering, he had scars on his face, which was still further disfigured by a false nose made of metal. A peculiar mark on the left arm, however, being recognized by the mother, fully identified him, and secured him acknowledgment and the reinvestment of his property, the possession of which had been delivered over to his relations upon the presumption of his death. His wife, during his absence, had taken to herself another husband, and has pertinaciously refused to return to his arms. This circumstance will, it is said, afford occupation for the tribunals.—*French paper.*

**NAVAL FORCE OF GREAT BRITAIN.**

BY CHARLES DUPIN, MEMBRE DE L'INSTITUT DE FRANCE, ACADEMIE DES SCIENCES, &C. &C. &C. ET MEMBRE DE LA LEGION D'HONNEUR.

*Translated by a young Officer of the U. S. Navy.*

**CHAPTER FIRST.****POPULARITY OF THE NAVY OF GREAT BRITAIN.**

IN free countries, military force has this in common with civil power, that it cannot have any solid foundation, unless it be popular, and it cannot long be so, unless the enlightened portion of the nation, who sooner or later must command public opinion, has not felt the real advantages of such a force. This popularity, sanctioned by the countenance of the better order, should then be considered as one of the moral, which assists with the physical causes, in rendering the Navy of England so powerful. Let us examine the mutual influences of these causes.

The metropolis of the British empire encircles within its very bosom the most frequented port in the world. 'Tis the commerce of the ocean, which alone has made London the richest and most populous city in Europe. The vessels from a hundred different countries unfurl their banners on the Thames, in the very centre of this immense city. And yet, the English flags alone surpass in numbers those of so many other nations.

The citizens of London are justly proud, at the sight of those fleets of merchant vessels which, each day, arrive from sea, or descend the stream; these, to export the staples of their country: those, to import the productions or riches from foreign climes. They cannot look upon this ever changing scene, without feeling that commerce and the empire of the sea have been the producing causes of the wealth and greatness of their native city. This prospect, as well as the ideas and inclinations which it gives birth to, does not belong solely to the capital of the British empire, but to the metropolis of every kingdom, and to the majority of the countries which comprise the empire. Edinburgh, at the head of one of the most beautiful bays of Scotland: Dublin, fronting England, and upon that side of the coast the best adapted for rapid communications between Ireland and London: Quebec, on the borders of the St. Lawrence, (the Thames of Canada:) Calcutta, on the Ganges: and Cape Town upon the southern verge of Africa, that tempestuous bluff which must be doubled to communicate with the Indies. In a word, in every quarter of the globe, every central point of British power participates in the blessings of ocean commerce, and by these blessings contributes to the splendor, wealth, and great strength of the British nation.

Not only the capitals of England, Scotland, and Ireland, but a multitude of cities and towns of the first class, are built upon the sea coast and on the banks of large rivers, navigable for most vessels. Bristol, Hull, and Liverpool; Dundee, Aberdeen, and Glasgow; Belfast, Cork, and Waterford, are linked by commerce with every town, with every manufacturing part of the interior, and the interests of the maritime towns thus become the interests of the interior.

No country is better supplied with rivers and canals, upon which men and merchandise are transported, with extreme rapidity, from one section of the country to another. There is not a part of the three kingdoms, from whence the sea, (by which it is surrounded,) cannot be reached in twenty-four hours.

During one season of the year, visiting and sojourning on the sea coast, are among the number of pleasures and necessities of all opulent parts of the population. This class of society, who with us pass their times at their country seats, desert both the cities and the country of England, Scotland, and Ireland; to seek the pure and reviving atmosphere of the ocean, and to enjoy the salutary effects of sea-bathing. The coast is beautified by hamlets, villages, and even towns have been built by luxury and affluence, by the nation in the season of bathing.

During the months when storms are few, and of short duration, the magnificent prospect of the calm and placid sea, invites them to trust themselves on its bosom. The most timid limit themselves at first to short trips, during calm and fine summer days; the vague idea of an uncertain danger disappears on approaching that object without realising the dreaded consequence. Man soon feels an indescribable charm, at seeing himself borne on the sufficiently treacherous waves, never to remove entirely the probability of peril, but when they, in the favorable moment which he chooses to confide in them, bear him smoothly on their heaving breast. At last, these adventurous spirits, men endowed with sufficient resolution, are drawn on at the sight of that vast expanse of waters, which stretches far beyond the distant horizon, and which presents roads without interruption to visit every clime. Thus the desire of travelling inflames thousands, and supplies to navigation officers, merchants, and seamen; men, who return to their country with trophies, treasures, or new discoveries, worthy conquests of the sea.

In the eyes of the English people, the sea is the natural element of British power, and her vessels are Albion's moveable ramparts. It is not simply in the figurative language of poetry, but in the most familiar language of conversation, that the English, in speaking of their ships, call them emphatically, *our bulwarks! our wooden walls!* Fortune has not always been as favorable to her armies; but the reverses experienced by these, have never endangered the national wealth. On the contrary, in those short periods, when France, Holland, Spain, or America, disputed with her the empire of the sea, with some success, her commerce suffered incalculable

losses, and her industry and agriculture were checked by the reactions of those losses, and in those times England beheld herself on the very verge of the precipice. Thus every Englishman is thoroughly convinced of the importance of maintaining upon a respectable footing, both in times of war and peace, the elements of a naval power, which may with advantage engage the maritime forces of the whole world combined.\*

In treating of the military force, we have often observed the effects and the causes of the aversion manifested by the people of England against the army, which they have ever looked upon as the scourge of a nation's liberty. But the naval force, created solely for outward defence, can effect nothing against the citizens, but can do much to effect the very fortunes of seafaring men. This single difference produces many among the moral influences, exercised by the Navy upon the minds of the British people; promotion in this military branch being gratuitous for all ranks. The man, urged on by talents and courage, finds nothing to stop him in his career. He is not condemned to languish eternally among the inferior officers or subalterns, as is the soldier of fortune, who has nothing but his miserable pay. Besides, prizes hold out a fair hope of obtaining an independent fortune. The shares in prizes are enormous for the superior ranks. Thus these ranks become the object of general emulation, not only for the honors and the power they confer; but also for the chances of opulence which they hold forth, with such apparent plausibility.

For these reasons the naval service is much preferred to that of the army, by every class of society. In the inferior classes, ten individuals will be found to offer for the Navy, where one would prefer the infantry or cavalry. In the higher circles, children of the first families do not blush to go on board vessels as common seamen, to raise themselves afterwards to the first ranks of command in the fleet. On the contrary, until lately, the inferior ranks of the army were filled by men whose families held but a slight hold on society. Indeed, the nominal colonels of regiments seldom or ever performed personal services. Hence, emulation and discipline, which always spring from the encouragements and watchfulness of the commanders, were here choked in their very birth.

Finally, while the admirals and commanders of vessels, basked in the sunshine of court favor, filled numberless honorary stations, near the person of the Prince, received peerages in many cases, and represented the nation in the House of Commons for several boroughs, there were but few generals and colonels, who obtained these marks of favor and confidence, either from the Prince or people.

\* The following passage gives a good idea of the opinion of the English on this subject: "It is only on occasions that we should become soldiers, and on these rare occasions to be so with reserve. Like other amphibious animals, we must at times visit the shore, but the ocean is our element, and on it, like them, we feel the full power of our strength." — *Quarterly Review*, No. 10, p. 403. *History of the War between France and England.*

Ever since the war which has crowned the army with laurels, as bright as those which it wore in the times of Marlborough, we have seen the King, to show to the nation that he did not cherish exclusively the army, visit the most important ports, embark at different times on board the squadron, parade his royal flag on the coast, and signalize each of these excursions by favors granted to the admirals, captains, and seamen of all ranks.

Such are the honor and popularity which the Navy of Great Britain enjoys !!!

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#### DR. SMITH ON THE TREATMENT OF FRACTURES.

BALTIMORE, September 1st, 1834.

MR. EDITOR:—Although your Magazine is not, perhaps, intended for such communications as this, yet there being no other mode of bringing the subject before the Naval Medical corps, I feel assured that you will lend your aid, to serve the cause of science and humanity, by giving an insertion to this notice of the excellent apparatus of professor Smith, of the University of Maryland, for fractures of the thigh bone.

For the recovery of fractures of the thigh bone, a great variety of means have been proposed, of different degrees of complication; all of them answering the purpose but imperfectly, and if they effect a recovery without deformity, they are attended by great inconvenience in their application, and are not adapted to the motion of a vessel. Many of them require to be kept prepared, and are unwieldy on ship-board, or not to be had on the spur of the moment. On the contrary, the apparatus now under consideration, though simple in its structure, answers every indication of the injury; promotes recovery without deformity; is free from the great inconveniences of unequal pressure, and in consequence of the independent motion given the limb, is particularly adapted to the motion of the sea. It can moreover be prepared extemporaneously on board any vessel of war.

The description of the apparatus and its application is taken from an article upon the subject by professor Smith, in the Baltimore Medical and Surgical Journal, to which reference may be made for a more full account.

“DESCRIPTION OF THE APPARATUS.—The construction of the apparatus will be more intelligible, if it be stated in the first place, that it consists of four pieces, viz. two concave inclined planes, the one adapted to the inferior surface of the thigh—the other to that of the leg. These are united by a hinge corresponding to the knee. The third piece is for the foot, and the fourth is connected with the thigh piece and extends upward beside the body, and this we will call the hip piece.

“The thigh piece is constructed thus. Two narrow pieces of strong oak, or other hard wood, are to be prepared, twelve and a half inches long, half an inch thick, and seven-eighths of an inch wide. A piece of very thick strong sheet

iron, fifteen inches long and an inch wide, is next to be taken, and at each end it must be bent at right angles, first an inch from the end, then again an inch from this, and finally and inch from this last; so that at each end a socket is formed for the end of the piece of wood, an inch square, thus

[Diagram] This socket is large enough to receive the piece of wood for the thigh, and also the hip piece. Four holes are made in the sides of the socket by which to screw it to the wood. The piece of iron is now to be bent in the middle, so as to be adapted to the shape of the thigh, and must be bent in a direction opposite to that of the ends for forming the sockets. It should be bent more in the middle than the sides, so that it shall be deeper than a semicircle. Its span will be seven inches. The two pieces of wood are now to have their upper ends placed in the sockets, and screwed tightly to them, leaving the outer part of the socket unoccupied, to slip in the hip-piece as occasion may require. A semicircular bow of strong wire, with the ends flattened and perforated with holes for screws, is next to be screwed to the pieces of wood about two inches from their inferior ends. Its extremities are most conveniently screwed to the wood pieces on the outside. The span of this wire is six inches. Thus is formed the skeleton of the thigh piece. The concave floor is to be formed of strong cotton duck, (which I have found after several trials to be the best material) a broad piece of which is to be nailed on each side along the upper edges of the pieces of wood, and allowed to fall loosely between them so as almost to reach the concavity of the two irons. It should be deeper at the upper than at the lower part, to suit the tapering form of the thigh. It must be wrapped over the superior edge of the upper iron, (a piece of blanket being interposed to make the margin large and soft) and sewed to itself at the inferior margin of the iron. Thus we have an easy, firm and well adapted surface for the thigh to rest upon. To secure the thigh in the splint, take a piece of poplar board one-tenth of an inch thick, twelve inches long, and six wide; glue a piece of strong domestic cotton to one of its surfaces, then split the wood in strips half an inch wide which will of course be held together by the cloth, but allowed to fold upon each other. Two leather straps are to be tacked across this, and by means of four buckles (two on each side attached to the side of the thigh pieces with pieces of leather and tacks) it is fastened to each side, and may be made to embrace the thigh with any degree of tightness. This is far better than a bandage, because making a more firm, steady and unvarying pressure.

" Next we form the leg piece, of two pieces of wood of the same size as those of the thigh, but nineteen and a half inches long. They are permanently fixed parallel to each other, and five and a half inches apart, by means of two bows of strong iron wire, passing beneath and screwed firmly to the outside of each piece, the one about two inches from the superior, the other about four inches from the inferior extremity of the pieces of wood. Thus the frame of the leg portion is formed. To form the concave floor to receive the calf of the leg, take a piece of cotton duck, about two and a half inches wide and seven inches long; nail the opposite extremities of this to the opposite pieces of wood, the superior margin being about an inch from their upper extremities. Let the middle portion sink loosely like a festoon, between the pieces, so that when the leg rests on it, it shall be pressed almost down to the iron bow. This cloth will receive the upper part of the calf of the leg. Another similar piece is to be attached about three inches from the inferior extremities, but as this receives the ankle, it must not sink so deeply between the pieces. These are the only permanent pieces of cloth which are used for this purpose; others are to be placed along the splint at the moment of applying it to the limb, and fitted to the calf of the leg all along, being fastened at the time with tacks to the side pieces, and accurately adjusted to the form of the limb by drawing the ends over the side pieces, until they are found to support their portion of the weight of the limb. By these the pressure of the weight of the limb is equally diffused.

" The thigh and leg portions are now to be united by means of two hinges, one on each side. Each of these is formed of two pieces of very strong sheet iron, as wide as the pieces of ash used in the splint. The upper one, to be attached to the thigh piece, is five inches long. Two inches of its length are screwed to the outside of the thigh piece, and, of course, it projects three inches beyond it. An oblong slit is made in this, commencing at the end of the piece of wood

FIG. 1

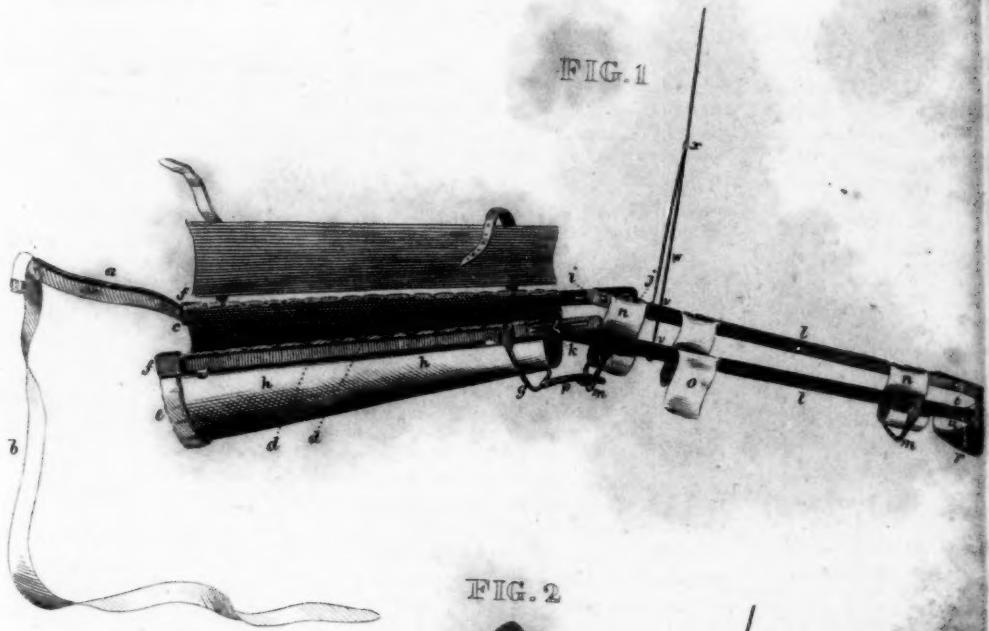
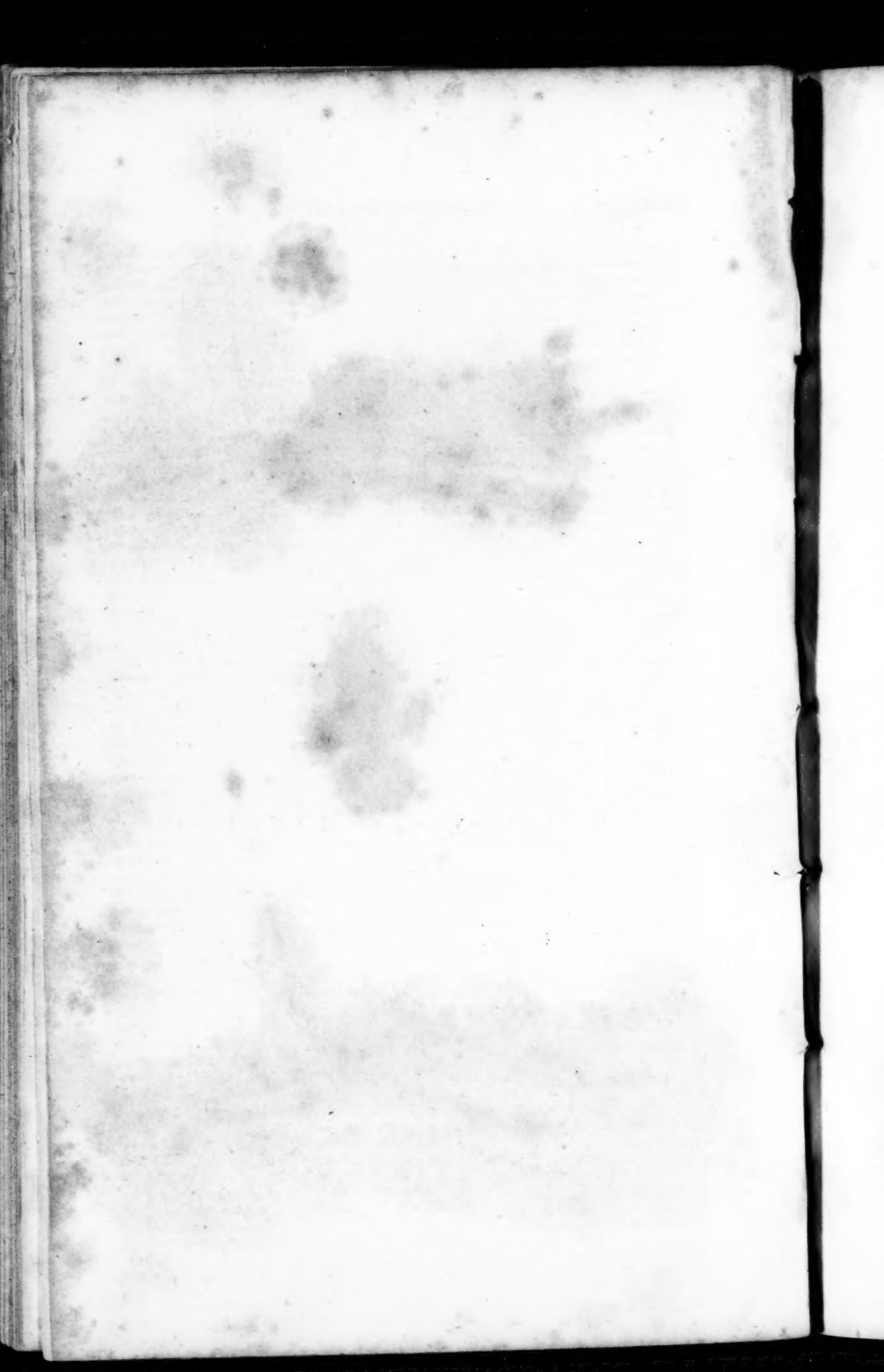


FIG. 2



FIG. 3





and extending almost to the end of the iron, the slit being about two inches and a half long and a quarter of an inch wide. The end of this iron may be filed semi-circularly. The lower piece of the hinge is to be two inches and a quarter long. It is screwed in the same manner to the leg splint, and extends beyond the piece of wood only three-quarters of an inch. In the centre of this projecting piece, is a round hole, equal in diameter to the oblong hole in the other piece. These two pieces are now to be joined together with a thumb screw, the head of which is on the inside, and the screw with the thumb piece, external. This hinge will allow of free flexion and extension, and as the screw may glide along the oblong slit, we may at pleasure elongate or abbreviate the thigh piece two and a half inches, which is as much as the thighs of different persons differ in length. When the thumb screws are tight, motion is checked; but something is necessary, when the splint supports the weight of the limb, to make it perfectly inflexible at any angle that may be desired. This is accomplished by attaching a narrow piece of sheet iron, four inches long, to the centre of the iron bow which fastens together the thigh pieces, by merely wrapping one of its ends round it, so as to form a sort of hinge. This piece is to have an oblong slit in it, beginning near the iron bow, and extending near to its extremity; it must also be bent so as to be convex upward. A hole should be made in the centre of the upper bow of the leg portion; then a thumb screw is put through this and through the narrow iron which (when the thigh and leg portions are bent upon each other) comes beneath it. When the screw is not close, the narrow iron will easily slide along the screw, and allow any angle to be formed and the moment that it is tightly turned, the angle is permanently fixed.

"The foot piece is formed of a half-inch board, cut in the shape of the sole of a shoe. Around the margin of the heel a piece of firm leather is nailed, projecting about two and a half inches, and designed to support the heel. An oblong slit is made in this piece of wood, beginning about an inch from the heel, and extending longitudinally about two and a half inches towards the toe. This is attached to the lower extremities of the leg portion, by means of a piece of sheet iron, as wide as the pieces of wood in the splint, and bent twice at right angles, so that when the side pieces of it are applied to the sides of the leg portion, they will overlap them externally, and the middle part will extend across the extremity from one piece of wood to the other. Each of the side portions of this iron has an oblong slit two and a half inches long, and there is a hole made in the end of each of the pieces of wood. By these holes the iron is attached with a thumb screw, and the oblong slit will slide up and down two inches or more, allowing us to elongate the leg piece in that degree. As they form a sort of hinge, the lower part of it may be elevated or depressed, thus giving any desirable inclination to the foot, which, as will be presently seen, is supported by this piece. A hole being made in the centre of the middle cross portion of this iron, the foot piece of wood is to be attached to its inside with a thumb screw, passed through the oblong slit, the thumb portion being below. The foot piece will then glide up and down and may be in a moment adjusted to receive any part of the weight of the foot and leg on the leather heel; or the toe may be turned out or in, to suit the right or left limb and to give any desired inclination to the foot.

"The hip piece is of ash or oak, nine inches long, a little convex externally, and concave internally, to suit the form of the hip. One extremity is to be rounded and fitted into the socket of the thigh splint, and it is to be fastened with a screw, so as to give it some degree of hinge-like motion. Its inner side is to have a thick compress of soft cloth nailed to it, and somewhat fashioned to the shape of the hip. The superior extremity extends to the lowest rib, or higher. This is secured to the body by a piece of strong cotton webbing, two yards long. To one end of this a buckle is attached, and the band is nailed to the outside of the hip piece, at right angles, so that the buckle shall be only a few inches from the piece and in front of the body. The other long tail of the band is now to be carried down behind the haunch—up along the perineum, between the thighs so as to embrace the thigh part of the apparatus at its upper part—then spirally up over the grain to the outer side of the hip, over the hip piece and then around the back—the left loin, and so completely round the body to the buckle, where it is to be secured. This I have found far more permanent and secure than the bandage.

"The application of the apparatus may be thus effected. When the fracture is

one of the thigh, it is applied entire. The surgeon causes the limb to be raised by assistants, the leg being bent at an easy angle on the thigh, and the splint bent to correspond. The apparatus is then brought under the limb by the surgeon, and the assistants let the member sink into the hollow for its reception, care being taken to press the upper margin of the thigh piece snugly against the perineum and the tuber of the ischium, against which it should rest. The surgeon then grasps the knee and extending the thigh, coaptates the fragments. The leg is now laid into the corresponding portion, the foot being received into the foot piece, and the upper part of the calf and the ankle resting on the permanent slings. Other strips are now to be drawn under the calf, so as to receive their portion of weight, and are tacked to the side pieces. The anterior short splint is next to be buckled snugly over the thigh, a thick compress being first applied and compresses being placed between the sides of the splint and the receding parts of the thigh and knee. The hip band is now to be buckled. Next, the surgeon takes a roller and beginning its application at the foot, at first binds the toe to the foot piece; then, he carries it spirally around the heel and splint, and brings it back again to the top of the foot around which it once more passes and then ascends upon the leg, making repeated turns as high as the knee, compresses being used to fill up all inequalities between the sides of the splint and the leg. Here it will be observed that each turn of the bandage gives new support to the leg beneath, and adapts the surface of the support more accurately. Should the length of either thigh or leg piece not correspond to that of the member, it may be adjusted in a moment, as heretofore described. The ankle may also be varied at pleasure.

"The whole is then to be elevated from the bed, and suspended as I have already described. The hooks which hold the apparatus should be attached below the knee. At the Baltimore Infirmary, I use a matress which has an oblong portion in the angle, corresponding to the leg piece, cut out, so that the foot swings clear without being raised very high. This also causes the limb by its gravity to exercise some degree of traction on the muscles and to assist in preventing the shortening of the limb.

"When the fracture is one of the leg near the knee, the hip piece may be removed, but the thigh piece must be retained; first, because it more effectually prevents motion at the place of fracture and causes the splint to move with the body, and next because no more perfect support for the thigh can be devised, even if it were of no other use than for this purpose. When, however, the fracture of the leg is near the ankle, the thigh piece may be dispensed with. The leg piece must then be adjusted with great care, and particular attention must be given to the foot piece, for the proper support of the foot is the principal source of difficulty in these fractures. But with this apparatus we have complete command of it. We can fix the foot in a moment so as to be perfectly immovable, and can with great ease render its attitude precisely such as we desire. The toe should be a little inclined forward and outward, and the pressure should be carefully equalized between the ankle and the heel by elevating or depressing the foot piece. Deformity in these fractures often results from the sinking of the heel. This we can with ease prevent without causing it to suffer from pressure, for the foot is partly supported on the wooden sole, and the leather for the heel is concave. Short splints of binders' board may be applied to the calf or shin if desired.

"It will now be apparent, that, in dressing the injured member, there is no necessity for disturbing the supports in the least. All the bandages may be removed and the limb viewed as it lies in the hollow of the apparatus. If any of the slings are not sufficiently tight, they can be drawn up and adjusted. If it be a compound fracture, the wound can be dressed with perfect facility, and by placing a tin trough beneath it to conduct the water into a bucket, as we practise in the Baltimore Infirmary, a thorough ablution may be performed without disturbing even its posture.

"It will be observed that I have not spoken of the many-tailed bandage. The apparatus above described, embraces the member so snugly, that I deem it altogether unnecessary.

"The apparatus is equally applicable to injuries of the knee and ankle joints."

The great advantage of the apparatus on ship-board will be seen from the following remarks of professor Smith. The string may be led from the patient's cot to the beam above, by which his object is to enable the limb "completely to obey the motions of the body," by facilitating the movements of the limb.

"In order to accomplish these indications, the apparatus which I employ is strictly an appendage of the body, rather than of the bed, and is a substitute for the injured portion of the skeleton. That it may enable the limb to obey all the necessary motions of the body with the most perfect facility, it is not only light and unattached to the bed, but it is slung up to the ceiling by a cord, and swings clear of the surface of the matress. When then the patient's body slides toward the foot of the bed, the superior fragment is not jammed upon the immovable inferior one, (a fruitful source, as Mr. Amesbury has shown, of deformity and shortening of the limb,) but the limb instantly obeys the movements of the body and swings toward the foot of the bed, without allowing the least force to be exercised upon the fracture, for there is no point d'appui for it to act upon. To illustrate this, if a stick were hung up by a cord attached to its middle, so as to be perfectly movable, no one could break it by seizing one of its extremities with a single hand; but if it were fixed in a wall by one extremity, the slightest force would break it. Also if the stick were previously broken, and the fracture was repaired by splicing it, though not very strongly, at the place of injury, and it were suspended, it would bear to be moved in every direction, without exercising any strain on the supports at the place of injury, or producing any shuffling at the place where they are joined. But if one end were fixed, it would be exceedingly difficult so to repair the fracture, that the slightest touch on the end of the stick would not make it bend at that point.

"When the limb is supported in the manner to which I have alluded, it will accommodate its position in the same way to all lateral, or even slight rotary, movements of the body. Thus will not only all the effect of the unavailable movements of the body upon the seat of injury be taken away, but all unequal strain of apparatus, or forcible pressure of any part of it, be prevented."

The apparatus so adapts itself to the form of the limb as to diffuse the pressure from the heel to the hip, and prevent the evil consequences with which medical men are familiar, of pressure confined to one or two points.

My object being only to call attention to this subject, I will not burden you with any of the many cases which have fully confirmed the excellence of this apparatus.

I remain,

Respectfully yours,

WM. MAXWELL WOOD,

*Assistant Surgeon U. S. Navy.*

*Index to the Plate.*—Fig. 1. The apparatus complete. *a* the hip piece; *b* the band which secures it to the body and thigh; *c* its hinge; *d d* the wooden side pieces of the thigh portion; *e* the iron attaching them at the superior extremity; *ff* its sockets; *g* the second iron bow; *hh* the floor of cotton duck; *i* the thigh portion of the hinge; *j* the leg portion of the same; *k* the thumb screw, *ll* the wooden sides of the leg portion; *mm* the iron bows uniting them; *nn* the slings of cotton duck; *o* a movable sling; *p* apparatus for adjusting and fixing the angle; *q* wooden foot piece; *r* leather which supports the heel; *s* iron which supports the foot piece; *t* end of the same fastened to the leg portion by the thumb screw, so as to allow of being extended or made shorter; *u* thumb screw which attaches the foot piece to the iron, allowing it to be adjusted to any position; *v v* hooks which suspend the apparatus; *w* cord attached to the same; *x* loop in the cord (sometimes a pully) through which the cord, attached to the apparatus, passes.

Fig. 2.—Foot piece separate.

Fig. 3.—Apparatus applied.

## THE SOLDIER'S REQUIEM.

INSCRIBED TO THE FRIENDS OF THE LATE LIEUTENANT JOSEPH  
RITNER, U. S. A.

A sword unclaimed, and a crest!  
Did ye not hear that muffled knell,  
'Mid the measur'd pause of a trumpet's swell?  
They bear him to his rest.

Dreary and wild and deep!  
Why soften the voice of your clarion clear?  
Why smother the roll at the guarded bier?  
His is a dreamless sleep.

Yea! give to your bugles breath!  
Ye will rouse him not from his banner shroud;  
Ye can wrest him not from his Victor proud;  
A conqueror strong is death.

Onward and on—but slow—  
As ye frequent change with the pikes ye hold;  
Do ye know' that weight in its starry fold?  
Your burden do ye know?

*There* was a spirit nursed—  
*There* was a heart, which beat for fame—  
A hand, that struck for a soldier's name—  
Halt! with the manly dust.

Comrade! thine eye is dim;  
No more will its drooping lid be raised;  
Alas! that the lute thou oft hast prais'd,  
Should chant thy requiem hymn.

Thy voice will sound no more,  
As in cadenc'd thunder once it fell,  
When the battle song and the savage yell  
Shook the Ouisconsin shore.

No more the jest will stray,  
Nor the smile of glee, nor the joyous song,  
From thy lip, as the heavy route seems long,  
On a soldier's weary way.

Comrade! thy task is done;  
Lov'd and belov'd beside thee meet;  
They march to the roll of the last retreat,  
At the setting of thy sun.

Yea! give to your bugles breath!  
Ye can wake him not from his banner shroud;  
Ye can wrest him not from his Victor proud;  
A conqueror strong is death.

HARP OF THE ISLE.

*Hancock Barracks, Me.*

## FOREIGN SELECTIONS.

**ORIGIN OF THE WORD "IMPRESSION."**—Lord Coke tells us, that when the King was to be served with soldiers for his wars, a knight or esquire of the country, who had revenues, farmers, and tenants, covenanted with the King to serve him in his wars, for such a time, with a certain number of men; and the soldiers made their covenant with their leaders or masters, and then they were mustered by the King's commissioners. By the 5th of Richard II. c. 2, these contracts are to be enrolled in the exchequer; and on entering into them, an advance of a certain sum was made from the exchequer to the contractors. This money was called (and still is called in other contracts) prest or imprest money; being, according to some authors, from the French word *prest*, (ready;) while others derive it from the Latin *præstitutum*, (engaged.) Be the etymology what it may, the meaning of the term is money advanced to a person out of the exchequer, in consideration of which he engages to be ready to perform some contract or service. The auditors of the imprest are the officers in the exchequer, who make up the account of naval and military expenses, and of all monies *impressed* to any man for the King's service. As the captains were engaged to the exchequer, so the soldiers were engaged to the captains, who enlisted volunteers by giving them earnest or prest money, as it is called in the old statutes, and these men, so imprest or engaged, were mustered by the King's commissioner. When seamen were wanted, the King issued a commission for impressing for the Navy; that is, for engaging them by prest money to enter into the service; so that the earlier press-warrants were warrants for raising volunteers.—*United Service Gazette.*

**COBBLER'S ROCK.**—So important is the trade of Barbadoes to this country, it is the duty of the government at home, or the authorities of the island, to place a light-house on this rock for the guidance of ships bound to, or passing by Barbadoes; for such is the variation in direction and strength of the currents, that few masters of traders are able to ward off the danger of a storm. The John Stewart, Captain Williamson, of 350 tons, from Demerara to London, was lost on the Cobbler's-rock, off the windward side of Barbadoes, on the 17th of January, with a cargo consisting of 556 hogsheads, 3 tierces, and 31 barrels of sugar, 100 puncheons and 10 hogsheads of rum. She had been four days out from Demerara, and was driven by fresh breezes, thick weather, and strong currents upon the same spot where, during the two preceding years, three other ships had been lost,—viz. the Wanderer (transport) with 250 troops, all saved, but vessel lost; the Paragon, from Demerara

to Glasgow, totally lost; and the Isabel, from Demerara to Liverpool, cargo partly lost and a heavy expense incurred.

**SIEGE OF BHURPORE.**—Bhurtpore fort, with the town, was nearly eight miles in circumference, flanked with numerous bastions at short intervals, well defended with immense cannon and surrounded by a very wide and deep fosse. The garrison was complete, amply provisioned and confident in the impregnability of their ramparts. Lord Lake and his little band of heroes sat down before the formidable place on the 3d of January, 1805; the trenches were soon opened, but whenever a breach was made, the defenders speedily filled it up or fortified it with stockades, and, in addition to the most galling and inveterate artillery and musketry, showered on the besiegers logs of burning wood and hot ashes, lighted bales of cotton steeped in oil, earthen pots filled with fire, and combustibles of every kind. Four times did the British troops attempt to storm the breach, and four times were they obliged to retire staggering under the (to them) terrible loss of upwards of three thousand men of the flower of the army; and here let it be recorded, that his Majesty's 75th and 76th regiments, (heretofore deemed like Ney "the bravest of the brave," and like Murat, always foremost in the heavy current of battle,) became panic struck at the fury of their enemies, and refused to follow their officers, until, shamed by seeing the East India Company's 12th regiment of Bengal Sepoys once more heroically plant their colors on the enemy's wall, and stung by the merited reproaches of their General, they loudly implored to be permitted to wash the stains from their honor in the fourth attack, which notwithstanding their desperate valor, was still unsuccessful.—*United Service Gazette.*

**DESPATCHES OF FIELD MARSHAL, THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON, K. G., VOL. I.**—We have already introduced to our readers the admirable compilation of the General Orders of the Duke of Wellington, and availed ourselves amply of the interesting material afforded by its pages. We have now the welcome task of announcing the publication of the first volume of the Duke's despatches, collected by the same deserving and accomplished officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Gurwood. The plan of the work is to make the Duke his own historian. Colonel Gurwood justly observes that "his Grace must certainly be the best authority for the details of what he knew, and of what he saw; and for what did not actually come under his observation, he had the information of all those whose duty it was to report to him the result of his orders." It is difficult, therefore, to conceive that the present age or posterity should receive a more accurate history of the military achievements of the Duke than this work, when completed, will present. This feature of the plan, however, is not so servilely adhered to as to exclude such explanations and details as are necessary to elucidate the more obscure passages of the narrative, and to preserve its dis-

tinct continuity. The early campaigns of the Duke in India have never been generally known, and to supply the desired information the industrious editor has inserted the governor general's letters to Tippoo Sultan, and compiled a narrative of the Indian campaigns, from sources of unquestionable authority. The documentary and interrupted form of the work may make it less popular with the ordinary reader than those volumes of superficial gossip vamped up for the Burling street market; but to the future historian it will be an invaluable reference, while to the military reader every page teems with interest and instruction: here the young officer, who has never yet been called on active service, may not merely learn much of the science and practical duties of his profession, but may see how the greatest chieftain of his own—perhaps of any age or country—acquitted himself as commander, as servant, as negotiator, as warrior; in short, in all the various characters in which a soldier can be called upon to act.

The present volume comes down to the treaty of peace with Scindiah, in 1803. The second is announced as in a forward state.

In our next we hope to be able to present our readers with some extracts from this very interesting work.—*Ibid.*

#### GENERAL RETURN OF THE RUSSIAN FORCES.

Infantry including guard and corps in agricultural set- lements	-	-	-	-	-	-	450,000
Garrison battalions,	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,000
Invalid ditto,	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,000
Artillery, including garrison companies,	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,000
Engineers and Artificers,	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,000
Cavalry, including guard and corps in agricultural set- tlements	-	-	-	-	-	-	95,000
Train	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000
Cossacks and irregulars	-	-	-	-	-	-	90,000
 Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	803,000

**PUNISHMENTS IN THE RUSSIAN ARMY.**—The punishments for ordinary offences are, caning, fatigue-duty, and extra guards; but imprisonment is not employed as a minor punishment. Loss of a certain number of years' service is applied for serious offences, and proves one of the most powerful checks upon misconduct. There are three classes of courts-martial. The regimental court is composed of one field officer, as president, and two captains or lieutenants; the division court-martial is composed of a colonel, as president, and eight or ten regimental officers as members; the general court-martial consists entirely of field-officers, with a president of high rank. An auditor, whose province resembles that of our deputy judge-advocate, always attends every description of court-martial. The courts are not open to the public, but in other

respects the mode of carrying on the trial, examining witnesses, and passing sentence, differs little from our own. Exile to Siberia or to the Caucasus garrisons, with or without degradation to the ranks, are among the severest punishments for offences of officers. Different degrees of flogging, or rather caning, are the ordinary sentences against the private soldiers, unless for very aggravated crimes, which may be punished by condemnation to work in the mines. Sentences of death are rare, and applied almost always to cases which, with us, would be handed over to the civil powers as felonies.

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**THE RUSSIAN ARMY.**—The Russian cavalry is very steady in the field, always manœuvring at a trot of about seven miles an hour. There are many superfluous words of command, which create noise, and have been lately somewhat retrenched in consequence. With the exception of the hussar regiments, all the Russian cavalry are instructed to dismount a certain number of each squadron, and act on foot with their carbines. The Russian armies have been remarkable for the large proportion of artillery with which they usually take the field. There are about thirty generals of artillery in active employ, and the corps at present consists of above 30,000 men and 20,000 horses. It must be observed, in respect to this service, that the cause which operates so strongly to occasion deficiencies in the infantry, and nearly as much so in the cavalry, do not come into play, owing to the great attention paid to keeping up the artillery in a constantly effective condition, by inspection of a strict nature, and in which no relaxation is permitted.

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**CURIOS COINCIDENCE.**—When the Kent Indianian was on fire in the Bay of Biscay, the second in command, the present Lieut. Col. McGregor, when all hope of relief had expired, wrote a letter describing their situation, which he inclosed in a bottle, and committed to the deep. Soon after his providential escape, and return to England, he was appointed to the command of the 93d Highlanders, then stationed at Barbadoes, to which place he proceeded immediately. Before his arrival, or soon after it, the identical bottle was picked up by one of the men of the 93d on the coast of the island, and its contents brought to the very man who had written them.

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**RELICS OF NAPOLEON'S ARMY.**—Between two and three hundred tons of the bones of the horses, and amongst them some of those of the men, which were lost in Napoleon's retreat from Moscow, have arrived and are arriving at Grimsby. These are the remains of the 30,000 almost famished horses, and the miserable men, who, as history relates, perished through cold in one night, almost at the commencement of his retreat from that city, which the flames kindled by the hands of the Russians had reduced to ruins and desolation.

## R E P O R T

OF

### THE BOARD OF VISITERS TO THE MILITARY ACADEMY.

—

WEST POINT, NEW YORK, June 17, 1834.

*To the Secretary of War:*

SIR : In compliance with your request, the undersigned have attended, as a Board of Visitors, during the general examination, at the United States' Military Academy, just concluded, and have "directed their inquiries to a full and free investigation in regard to the course of instruction, both military and scientific, and to the internal police, discipline, and fiscal concerns of the institution." That these several objects of inquiry might be attended to as thoroughly and successfully as possible, the Board, at its organization, referred them to separate committees, who have presented full reports with regard to them, accompanied by some suggestions for the improvement of the institution. Copies of these reports are forwarded to you, and the Board take the liberty of referring you to them for details, while they confine their joint report to a general and brief view of the present condition of the Academy.

The fidelity of the Professors, and the assiduity and proficiency of their pupils, were tested by an examination, on the several subjects, extending over eleven days, and continued for each day eight hours.

The sciences, not strictly professional, included in these examinations, were mathematics, taught here from the elements of arithmetic to the profound theorems of the integral calculus—natural philosophy, including mechanics and astronomy—chemistry, in connexion with mineralogy and geology—and, lastly, rhetoric and moral and political science.

The subjects of professional study are civil and military engineering, and infantry and artillery tactics, with the last of which are connected ballistics and pyrotechny.

A part of the first two years is devoted to the study of the French language, with which a competent acquaintance is required of the cadets.

Lastly great attention is very properly paid, in this Academy, to the art of drawing, of which the practical applications are so frequent and important in the military profession.

The subjects combined, certainly constitute an excellent preparatory education for officers of the army, and the examinations proved that they were faithfully and skilfully taught. Marked inequalities were indeed observed in the proficiency of the cadets, and defects remain to be corrected in the organization of some of the departments, but still the exhibition was, on the whole, highly satisfactory and gratifying.

Frequent opportunities were presented to the Board of witnessing the practical skill of the corps for infantry and artillery exercises; and their fine and soldier-like appearance in the ranks, and the accuracy with which they executed their various evolutions, proved that this essential part of the duties of a Military Academy was sedulously attended to by both officers and cadets.

The discipline of the institution was carefully examined, in its various bearings, and the Board have reason to think that it is in an excellent state. The laws seem to be executed with a stern regard to the good of the service, yet with kind and paternal feelings, and the officers and professors are believed to be generally both beloved and respected.

The internal police of the institution was found to be carefully attended to. The rooms, in the barracks, occupied by the cadets, exhibit a gratifying appearance of neatness and order, while, at the same time, they give rise to regret, on account of the inadequate accommodation which they offer. The mess table is well supplied with plain, but good and wholesome food. In the event of sick-

ness, which the Board are happy to find has been lately of rare occurrence, suitable and comfortable accommodations are provided at the hospital, with the best medical attendance.

The Board directed an inquiry to be instituted, with as much minuteness as circumstances would admit, into the fiscal concerns of the institution. The result, which will be found fully detailed in one of the reports sent herewith, is, that the accounts are kept in a correct and satisfactory manner—that the expenditures are made in accordance with the appropriations—and that a proper attention is paid to economy in the expenses of every kind. To prevent extravagance in the cadets, there is a regulation which prohibits to them the possession or use of money, or the expenditure of it, except with the consent of the Superintendent, who stands, with regard to them, in the place of a parent, and who, it is believed, exercises his authority with enlightened discretion.

The whole investigations of the Board, lead them to the conclusion that the Military Academy is a most valuable and essential part of the army establishment of the United States; that, at a cost so low as not to exceed that of a second rate man-of-war, it prepares, and can spread over the whole country, officers instructed and capable of giving instruction in the military art; and thus, without the danger arising to liberty from large standing armies in time of peace, enables the Government to fulfil the duty which the constitution so solemnly enjoins, of "providing for the common defence;" and, lastly, that if our young citizens were commissioned in the army as lieutenants, in the first instance, as they must be if this institution be abolished, they could not obtain, in four years, even the same military knowledge as the cadets, while their probation and education would be far more expensive to the country.

G. VAN SCHOONHOVEN,  
*President.*

ALVIN BRONSON,  
JAMES HOOKER,  
CHARLES B. PENROSE,  
H. C. COMINGE,  
JNO. T. ANDERSON,  
R. M. PATTERSON,  
ACHILLE MURAT,  
WM. P. DUVAL,  
WRIGHT C. STANLEY,  
P. LINDSLEY,  
J. L. SMITH, *Captain Corps  
of Engineers,*  
JAMES LATIMER, jun.  
T. B. DALLAS, *Secretary.*

The undersigned, freely subscribe the within report, without expressing an opinion with regard to the last paragraph.

WM. SMYTH,  
J. W. SCOTT.

#### No. I.

##### *Report of the Committee on Internal Police.*

The Committee on Internal Police, whose duty it was made to inquire into the state of the public buildings, the accommodations for study, for recitations, and for sleeping, the subsistence and clothing of the cadets, and the state of the hospital, and the attention to the sick, have examined the various subjects submitted to them, and do now report the information collected.

The public buildings are of solid and permanent materials, and of good workmanship. They are in a state of good repair, and a remarkable degree of neatness and cleanliness every where pervade them.

In the main, they are well adapted to the purposes to which they are appropriated; there are some exceptions, and to these, attention is now invited.

The *North Barracks* contains forty-eight rooms, and in each room are located from four to five cadets. Whether this number is not too great, if the comfort of the cadets is consulted, is an inquiry well deserving consideration.

The rooms in the *South Barracks* are thirteen feet six inches long, and nine feet wide; the doors open directly into the piazza, and are immediately fronting the fire place. In each of these rooms are located three cadets. The size and exposed situation of the rooms in this barrack, and the number of cadets quartered in each room, are inconsistent with the health and comfort of the occupants.

A radical alteration in these barracks ought to be made, and additional rooms for the accommodations of the cadets ought to be provided.

The rooms may possibly be rendered less exposed by enclosing the piazzas with a permanent wall, or with temporary blinds during winter; but with these alterations, additional rooms ought to be provided. The rooms are entirely too small for the accommodation of three cadets.

In the further prosecution of the inquiries submitted to us, we ascertained that throughout the whole establishment, no room was set apart for chemical purposes, or in which a laboratory had been erected; nor was there a room of adequate size provided, in which might be kept the philosophical apparatus. A large and elegant telescope, understood to have cost fourteen hundred dollars, is placed in a slight wooden building, perishable in its nature, and insecure in its structure. A house erected with a view of supplying these evident and palpable deficiencies—that is to say, a house which should contain additional rooms for the cadets, rooms for the chemical and philosophical apparatus, if built of permanent materials, and in a workmanlike manner—would increase the value of the real estate belonging to the Government, by a sum nearly, if not quite, equal to the cost of the building.

The committee inspected the rooms of the cadets. Great neatness, cleanliness, and order, prevailed throughout. Upon inquiring into the cause of the great uniformity which pervaded each room, it was ascertained that the regulations of the institution descend to the most minute particulars—such, for example, as assigning a particular place for the books, caps, beds, tables, and, in truth, for every article of necessity or convenience belonging to the cadet. No cadet is permitted to use tobacco, or any inebriating drink; and to this regulation may, in part, be attributed the cleanliness of the rooms, and the general good order which prevails in the institution.

Your committee next turned their attention to the subsistence of the cadets; and they were surprised to learn that no storehouse had ever been provided at public expense. A small wooden building has been erected at the expense of the contractor, in which is placed for safe-keeping the different kinds of stores, and the different kinds of crockery ware. Any thing but order reigns. No improper imputation is designed to be thrown on the contractor; a different and a better arrangement cannot be made in a building of so small a size. A permanent building, of adequate dimensions, can be built for one thousand dollars.

The subsistence, as set forth in the bill of fare, and as is provided by the contractor, is abundant, and wholesome and sufficiently varied. The viands and vegetables are varied each and every day. The clothing of the cadets is abundant, of good materials, and supplied at reasonable prices, fixed by the Board of Clothing Inspectors. Each cadet is furnished with a check book, and is not to be supplied with articles by the storekeeper, tailor, or shoemaker, without an order in such book from the superintendent, or, in his absence, of the commandants.

These regulations prevent the cadet from being over-reached in prices he might be made to pay for articles purchased, and enables the prudence of the superintendent to inculcate lessons of economy. Articles of necessity and comfort are furnished him; those of luxury and unprofitableness are withheld from him.

Every part of the hospital is well managed, and is characterized by neatness and cleanliness.

Whatever can render tolerable the bed of sickness, whether it be the appearance of the external objects, or the kindness and assiduity of the physicians, is to be found.

Fortunately, the salubrity of the climate, and the elevation of the country, prevent the frequent occurrence of disease.

All of which is respectfully submitted by order of the committee.

W. C. STANLEY, *Chairman.*

## No. II.

### *Report of the Committee on the Course of Studies.*

The Committee on the Course of Studies, report as follows:

The only preliminary knowledge required for admission into the Military Academy is reading, writing, and the first elements of arithmetic. Several previous Boards have strongly urged the necessity of adding to these prerequisites; but while the importance of their recommendation must be admitted, the fear of excluding candidates from remote parts of the country, where the means of good education are not at command, has prevented its adoption. It appears, however, to your committee, that there could be no valid objection to extending the prerequisites at least so far as to include geography, (an essential practical science, not taught at the Academy,) and English grammar and composition, to be tested by the ability to write correctly on some suitable theme proposed at the examination.

The science which is justly made the basis of instruction at the Academy is mathematics. By far the greater part of the first two years is devoted to the pure science, and its applications are met with in nearly all the studies of the remaining course. The examinations included algebra, synthetic, descriptive, and analytical geometry, plane and spherical trigonometry, mensuration, and surveying, perspective, and the differential and integral calculus. These examinations were, on the whole, highly satisfactory, and showed at the same time, the fidelity of the professors, and the assiduity of their pupils.

Natural philosophy is the principal study of the second class. A thorough examination in mechanics having been held in January, the class were now only questioned generally on the subject, and the examination was principally confined to electricity, magnetism, optics, and astronomy, with which studies the class exhibited a competent acquaintance. Your committee are pleased to have it in their power to speak in terms of just praise of the manner in which this department is conducted.

The second class were also examined on chemistry, and your committee were well satisfied with their performance, especially when they consider the unmerited disadvantages under which the department labors. Instead of having an independent organization, established by law, it exists only by executive authority. In the merit roll, chemistry is valued at least one-third of natural philosophy. The acting professor, who has occupied his chair with acknowledged ability for many years, has only the pay of a second lieutenant, and is out-ranked, at the Academic Board, by the assistant professors, many of whom have been his own pupils. Your committee cordially join in the recommendations made by previous Boards, that the department of chemistry, including mineralogy and geology, be placed on the footing of the other schools, having a permanent professor, and two officers acting as assistant professors; to one of whom the subjects of mineralogy and geology might be specially entrusted.

Engineering and the science of war, constitute the principal studies of the senior class. The first examination held was on these subjects, and it was certainly such as must have proved satisfactory to the Board. The general excellence of the drawings exhibited, and of the sketches executed on the black boards, during the examination, was particularly striking.

Infantry and artillery tactics, and pyrotechny, also form important parts of the instruction of the cadets; but as these subjects have been specially referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, it has not been judged proper to introduce them into the present report, any further than to state that the examination on ballistics exhibited one of the most direct and interesting applications of mathematics to the military art, and that it was conducted in a manner equally creditable to the professor and his pupils.

A part of the first two years is devoted to the study of the French language,

with which the cadets are required to become at least so far acquainted as to understand its grammar, to be able to pronounce it intelligibly, and to translate it readily into English. They are also exercised in writing French themes. It is to be regretted that very few of them make such progress as to be able to speak the language. The examinations in this department were as satisfactory as could be reasonably expected from the time allotted to the study.

In this Academy, great attention is very properly paid to the art of drawing; of which the practical applications are so frequent and important in the military profession. The proofs of proficiency in figure, landscape, and topographical drawing, were very satisfactory. During part of the present academical year, this department was under the superintendence of a distinguished artist, whose resignation and removal from the country are subjects of general regret.

The instruction in grammar, rhetoric, moral philosophy, and political science, is confined to the senior year, which is loaded with professional studies. But five hours in two weeks are allotted to the recitations. The professor, therefore, justly complains of the want of time for conveying adequate instructions in this department. It appears to your committee that this evil might be remedied—first, by extending the requisites of admission to the degree which they have recommended; and, secondly, by teaching rhetoric to the third class instead of the first. This study ought not to be postponed until incorrect habits of speaking and writing may be confirmed; and, besides, your committee are informed, that time can be at present better spared in the second, than in any other year of the course.

The Professor of this department is also the Chaplain of the station, and divine worship is conducted by him once every Sunday, in the presence of the officers and cadets of the Academy. Your committee think it desirable that further opportunities of religious instruction should be given, but they would not propose that the attendance upon them should be compulsory. A separation of the chaplaincy and professorship is anxiously desired by the reverend gentleman who now holds these offices. There are certainly some good reasons in favor of this measure, and if the duties of both these offices should be increased as proposed by your committee, this separation would probably become necessary.

Your committee, in compliance with their instructions, have inspected the cabinets of natural philosophy, chemistry, and mineralogy, and have found them generally in good condition, and containing many very valuable articles. The constant advances which the natural sciences are making, require, indeed, that additions should be made to these cabinets from year to year, and appropriations will be wanted for this purpose; but the present collections are so extensive, that no considerable expense need be incurred. Your committee have regretted to learn, however, that a large part of the mineralogical cabinet is not the property of the Government, and they have to express their hope that the purchase of the entire collection will no longer be deferred.

Your committee have also inspected the library. It consists of more than eight thousand volumes of works, for the most part immediately relating to the subjects taught at the Academy: the whole appearing to be judiciously selected, well preserved, and kept under good regulations. To keep pace with the progress of science, and to supply deficiencies already existing, it will be necessary, however, that additions be constantly made to it, and it is hoped that a liberal appropriation will be annually made for this purpose.

Among the books at present in the library, is a very curious and interesting series of about one hundred volumes of old works on mathematics, natural philosophy, and astronomy, containing, among others, the works of Galileo, Kepler, and Leibnitz, and the original editions of Lord Napier's Logarithms. It was with regret that your committee learned that a requisition had been made for these works, to be employed in the survey of the coast now going forward; and that they were accordingly on the point of being removed from the Academy. From the contents and dates of the works, your committee presume it will not be pretended that they are *necessary* in the great geodesical operations for which they are asked, and therefore your committee think that the Board ought to protest against their removal from the only library, professedly scientific, that belongs to the nation.

Though the subject of the public buildings has been referred to another committee, the Committee on the Studies hope they will be excused if they call the attention of the Board to the rooms appropriated for the philosophical apparatus, the chemical laboratory, the mineralogical cabinet, and the library. These rooms are not only inadequate to their several purposes, but they are unsafe. The furnaces of the chemical laboratory are in a room with a wooden floor, immediately below the philosophical apparatus and the library, and no part of the whole building is fire-proof. Besides the laboratory and the philosophical apparatus are placed in the same room in which the classes are assembled to lecture, while the accommodation is scarcely sufficient for either of these purposes singly. On the whole, your committee think that a new fire-proof building, with rooms for a laboratory, the apparatus, a museum, and the library, and with suitable halls for experimental lectures, is exceedingly desirable. Your committee also think that an astronomical observatory ought to be established at this place. Its importance, as a school of practice, for cadets, who may hereafter be called upon, as engineers, to conduct topographical and geodesical operations, cannot but be felt. An excellent position for it is presented on the land, where the instruments could be seated on the solid rock: the building could be constructed at a very moderate cost, and all the instruments necessary to furnish it are already in possession of the Government.

Respectfully submitted to the Board, by the committee, June 14th, 1834.  
R. M. PATTERSON, *Chairman.*

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### No. III.

#### *Report of the Military Committee.*

The Committee on Military Affairs and Discipline, have the honor to report, that they have particularly inquired into all the subjects entrusted to their examination, and that the result has been exceedingly satisfactory to them, and creditable to the institution.

The committee directed first their inquiries to the class on engineering, and in common with the other members of the Board, they were highly delighted with the proficiency of the cadets. They were surprised to learn that the course of military engineering lasted only four months; and they must particularly commend the industry of both professors and students, which enabled the latter to acquire so much knowledge in so short a time. They found likewise a great want of models of the details of the works. These could be easily procured, and would facilitate a great deal the study of this science, which the committee cannot but consider the most important branch of the education which the cadets are intended to receive at West Point.

The examination on civil engineering was likewise highly satisfactory, and shows the particular care paid to it in the institution. The use to which Government in time of peace employs the officers of the army, renders these studies particularly important; and the country at large will be pleased to learn the attention paid to them. In this department, likewise, models are wanted, and could be procured with very little trouble, and at trifling expense.

The examination on artillery showed in the cadets a thorough knowledge of the theory of this science; and their exercises in field manœuvres, target-firing, fireworks, and the explosion of a mine, left no doubt as to their attainments in the practice. The target-firing took place under very unfavorable circumstances, owing to the bad quality of the ordnance. The text books in this department are principally translations, or compositions of the best foreign works, executed by the instructor himself, and highly creditable to his zeal and to his industry. The laboratory was examined, and the cadets seem to go through the preparation and manufacture of every sort of fireworks employed in war. The rockets were peculiarly remarkable for their brilliancy, and the space they went over, as compared with their size.

The ordnance was found by your committee very defective. The pieces are generally worn out; and some of them have been condemned as worthless. The shot received is very bad; and being in general too small for the pieces, and of irregular figures, prevents any accuracy at target-firing. The commit-

tee, however, has learnt that a requisition has been made upon the Ordnance Department, and that a compliance with it is looked for during the course of the present season. The committee has observed that all the carriages were of the oldest models; and they are of opinion that no pains ought to be spared to provide this institution with the newest and most approved inventions and models, in order not to teach the cadets to use and employ arms and machines, which they will have nothing to do with when they enter in actual service.

The committee heard the examination upon infantry tactics, and saw the cadets exercising with great skill and precision. The manœuvres of light infantry have been successfully introduced; and although practised but a short time, were very well executed. The arms were examined, as well as the accoutrements, and were found in the most complete order. The committee found fault only with the shape of the button used in the cadets' uniform. They are too large, and most inconvenient. Where the belts, owing to the size of the cadets, come to pass over one of them, either a most unseemly protrusion is created, or a hole made through the belt, which entirely destroys the uniformity. It is considered that bullet buttons could be advantageously replaced by flat, or nearly flat buttons.

The committee next directed their attention to the military duties required from the cadets, and found them not to be oppressive, nor to abstract any more time from their studies than is absolutely necessary, in order to preserve discipline, and give them military and soldier-like habits of precision.

The discipline was examined in its various bearings, and seemed excellent. By many inquiries, it was ascertained that whilst power on the one hand was exercised in the most paternal manner, and always for the good of the service, that on the other hand the officers and professors were generally found to be beloved and respected. A happy state of things, which the committee cannot commend too much. Some of the regulations contained in the pamphlet which was distributed amongst the Board, seemed at first sight rather severe; but it was found that the apparently too great harshness of the law was compensated by the mildness of its execution. It is believed, indeed, that fewer offences have taken place under this liberal system, than if too much rigor should be exercised.

The committee have been highly pleased with all that they have seen, and extending their observations to the vast field of improvements, they beg leave to suggest, that since the United States have now added to their army a regiment of cavalry, the cadets ought likewise to be instructed in cavalry tactics. Thirty or forty horses would be sufficient, and could be used at the same time to teach the cadets the service of light artillery. The importance of these two branches of military knowledge is too obvious to require the committee to say any more on the subject.

Another suggestion the committee wishes to make, is as to the necessity of a large hall, where military exercises may be, to some extent, conducted in winter. It is thought that this would be in a high degree conducive to the health and comfort of the cadets.

Before taking leave of this subject, the committee will indulge in a few observations upon the general results of the institution. However dangerous standing armies are to a nation's liberty in time of peace, they nevertheless possess immense advantages in time of war. The only way to reconcile the dangers and advantages of a standing army, is to organize it in such a way that it may prove as it were elastic, so as to be able in the shortest time to assume from the smallest possible size, the largest. In order to obtain this *desideratum*, a military academy is absolutely necessary, where the higher branches of the military science should be taught. Officers of infantry and cavalry can easily be recruited from the rank and file of the army, but the engineers, the staff, and the artillery, require men educated for these professions. In time of peace, those cadets who cannot be employed in these corps, are embodied in the infantry and cavalry, but as soon as war should be declared, their services would be required in the scientific departments of the army, which would partake of the general increase, and their places in the line would be supplied either from the citizens generally, or from the rank and file of the army. From all these observations made by your committee, they are of opinion that the military edu-

cation received at West Point, fulfills entirely the objects of an institution, the necessity of which can scarcely be doubted.

The whole of which is respectfully submitted.

ACHILLE MURAT, *Chairman.*

No. IV.

**The Committee on Fiscal Concerns report :**

That, in discharge of the duties assigned to them, they have examined, with as much minuteness as circumstances would admit, the accounts of the institution, and they take pleasure in saying that the result of their investigations has been highly satisfactory.

The committee directed their attention to three points involved in the resolution under which they were appointed:—

1st. To inspect the accounts of the institution so far as to see that they are kept in a correct and satisfactory manner;

2d. That the expenditures are made in accordance with the appropriations;

3d. That attention is paid to economy in the expenses of every kind.

Heretofore, two separate appropriations, under different heads, for the support of the Military Academy, have been made by Congress. The one is embraced under the item "for the pay of the army and subsistence of officers," for which the appropriation is general, and does not discriminate the amount appropriated for the pay and subsistence of the cadets, from the pay and subsistence of the residue of the army, but the whole is included in one general item. This fund is disbursed by the paymaster stationed at West Point, who, by "the regulations," is "treasurer of the cadets."

The amount of this fund annually expended, including the pay of the professors, has been estimated at ninety-three thousand five hundred and sixty-six dollars and fifty-two cents, and this may be safely considered a fair estimate of the annual expense of the institution for this branch of expenditure.

The other appropriation for the support of the institution, is made for the Military Academy, and is specifically appropriated to the different objects of expenditure connected with the institution. These are, usually, for fuel, forage, stationary, printing, transportation, and postage; for repairs, improvements, and expenses of buildings, &c.; for the pay of adjutant's and quartermaster's clerks; for increase and expenses of the library; for philosophical apparatus; for models for the department of engineering; for models for the drawing department; repairs of instruments for the mathematical department; apparatus and contingencies for the department of chemistry; miscellaneous items and incidental expenses of the Academy; and for defraying the expenses of the Board of Visitors at West Point. The annual amount appropriated under this head for four years, terminating with the year 1833, has varied from twenty-three thousand four hundred and thirty-nine dollars to thirty-six thousand seven hundred and sixty-five dollars per annum—the latter sum including an appropriation of sixteen thousand dollars for the erection of a chapel, and a building for military exercises; which being inadequate to these objects, remains unexpended.

Your committee investigated the accounts of the treasurer and of the quartermaster, which are kept in a correct and satisfactory manner, exhibiting, in a tabular form, the entire expenditure for a given period, arranged under appropriate heads, each item of which is supported by a voucher, without which the accounts would not be passed by the accountant department.

The expenditures are made in strict accordance with the appropriations, and the entire fiscal arrangement of the institution challenge the unqualified approbation of the most rigid scrutiny.

The third branch of investigation referred to your committee is one of much importance. It presents the inquiry, "whether proper attention is paid to economy in the expenses of every kind of the institution?" It involves the personal expenses of the cadet, and the general expenditures of the Academy.

The regulations which prohibit to the cadet the possession or use of money, or the expenditure of it, except with the consent of the superintendent, who is placed in *loco parentis*, and exercises this important power with enlightened discretion, cannot be too highly commended, or too scrupulously adhered to.

The pay and subsistence of the cadet is sixteen dollars per month, and two rations, equal to twelve dollars, making together the sum of twenty-eight dollars. To carry into effect the important regulation referred to, each cadet provides a check book, which is ruled and arranged in tabular form, so as to exhibit, in one view, the expenditures of each period of two months, at the head of which are placed those charges which are regular, fixed, and always uniform. When the cadet wishes to obtain any article, he must apply to the superintendent, who, if he consent, indicates it by writing in the appropriate column, upon which the article is furnished to the cadet, and the charge is entered by the person furnishing it in another column. The entries in this check book are constantly exhibited to the superintendent, and are the vouchers upon which the treasurer pays to the persons who furnish the cadets the amounts which may be due to them.

It is manifest, that while this mode of keeping accounts is perfectly simple and readily understood, it is admirably calculated to secure the cadet from all imposition, and conduces to the strictest economy in his expenses; since he is constantly reminded, by a reference to his check book, of the extent of his income, and the objects to which prudence requires he should appropriate it; and besides this, it gives to the cadet the habit of keeping accounts of his expenses, so essential to secure a high character in the profession for which he is destined, or in the discharge of the various honorable employments in civil life, for which he is so well fitted by the education he receives at the Military Academy.

This habit of economy, which so much depends upon an habitual attention to accounts, teaches that prudence in affairs, without which all other attainments are obscured or rendered wholly useless, and without which men are but little suited for the simplicity and salutary equality which is not only taught by, but practically results from our institutions. And your committee have found on this account much to admire and commend in the fiscal arrangements to regulate the expenses of the cadets.

There can be no better evidence of the attention to economy in the general expenses of the institution, on the part of the gentlemen charged with the important duty of administering its concerns, than is disclosed by the fact that independent of the sum of sixteen thousand dollars already referred to as unexpended, the accounts for the last four years, terminating on the first of January of the current year, show an unexpended balance of three thousand seven hundred and sixty-four dollars and eighty-seven cents and a half.

It will be perceived that the annual amount expended for the pay of professors, and the pay and subsistence of the cadets, is estimated at an average of ninety-three thousand five hundred and sixty-six dollars and fifty-two cents—to which if we add the amount of the expenditures for academic purposes, &c. which, taking the mean of the last four years, may be estimated at about twenty-three thousand and five hundred dollars, exclusive of the unexpended appropriation for the erection of a chapel and building for exercise, equal to one hundred seventeen thousand one hundred and sixty-six dollars and fifty-two cents, and we have the annual average expenditure of the institution for the last four years. This, too, embraces a large sum which has been expended for the gradual increase of the library, the philosophical apparatus, and mathematical instruments, &c. belonging to the institution, a charge which, as these departments become more perfect, will annually diminish. When it is considered that this national institution assembles from all parts of our extended country, the youth of every State in the Union, who here receive instructions from a common *alma mater*, and that *alma mater* their country, and that this is calculated to inspire them with feelings of personal and patriotic affection, connecting more closely the bonds of common union, when it is considered that they carry with them these feelings into the army, where they may become the gallant defenders of that very country, to every part of which they owe so much; when it is considered that at this institution two hundred and fifty cadets are annually taught, and acquire an extraordinary proficiency in the useful and exact sciences, now mainly instrumental in the successful prosecution of the great work of internal improvement, to which almost every State in the Union is turning its attention, and in which, should the cadets of the Military Academy be employed, they would so richly repay, independent of every other considera-

tion, the amount expended for their education; when all these things are considered, your committee cannot avoid the conclusion, that the amount annually expended for this institution is not only consistent with enlightened economy, but that it is to be regretted that the number of cadets now allowed by law is not greater, so that the benefit of the institution might be more generally extended.

Your committee approve of the policy which prevented the expenditure of the sixteen thousand dollars, appropriated by Congress for the erection of a chapel and a building for military exercise, so much wanted for the institution. This sum they consider insufficient for the purposes for which it was destined; and they are fully of opinion that the most salutary economy which the Government can exercise on this subject, is that which, while it requires the utmost exactness in accounts and contracts, and the greatest prudence in the expenditure of money, admits an expenditure fully sufficient to carry into effect the great design of making this institution worthy of the age and worthy of the country upon which it is calculated, if properly regulated, to confer so many benefits.

By reference to "the regulations," it will be ascertained that each cadet, upon entering the institution, is required to furnish himself with certain articles of furniture and clothing, necessary for his comfort and health. The amount which he is thus required to expend upon entering the institution, is about seventy-five dollars. Your committee have ascertained that very many cadets do not bring with them, when they come to the institution, money for this purpose. In such case the cadet is forced to contract debts in anticipation of his pay, to an amount which must occasion him much embarrassment and difficulty, and, besides, should he be so unfortunate as not to pass at the January examination, he is without the means of returning to his place of residence.

It is much to be regretted, that parents and guardians should not more generally attend to this. Your committee think it right to bring the subject into the view of the Board, so that it may, if the Board should consider it proper, be made the foundation of a recommendation to the War Department, that each parent or guardian of a cadet, who is provisionally appointed, should be informed of the importance of sending for his son or ward, to the superintendent, a sum sufficient to meet the expenditures referred to. Perhaps it would be always best to send this money directly to the superintendent, so as to avoid any improvidence on the part of the cadet.

Among the inquiries which engaged the attention of the committee was the personal expenses of the cadets, with a view to consider whether some reduction in them could not be effected. The committee were satisfied that the amount now appropriated for the pay and subsistence of the cadet is barely sufficient to maintain him. There is no item of expense incurred by the cadet in which it appears a reduction could be made, unless it should be in the item of board, which is charged to the cadet at ten dollars per month.

Comparing this with the expense of boarding in other literary and scientific institutions in our country, the committee have been induced to suggest the inquiry whether the charge for board might not be reduced without injustice to any one.

CHARLES B. PENROSE, *Chairman Committee.*

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The undersigned, having been invited to be present, as a visitor, at the general examination of the cadets of the United States Military Academy, can, with the greatest pleasure, bear testimony to the proficiency generally of the pupils in the various departments of learning, both military and scientific, which have occupied their attention; but in conforming to the letter of instructions forwarded to him by the Honorable Secretary of War, which is as follows: "The object of this regulation is, that the War Department may be correctly informed of the condition and management of all the concerns of the Academy. It is, therefore, desired, in conjunction with the other members of the Board, that your inquiries may be directed to a full and free investigation in regard to the course of instruction, both military and scientific, to the internal police, discipline, and fiscal concerns of the institution, for which purpose every facility will be afforded by the superintendent. The result of your observations, with

any suggestions for the improvement of the Academy, will be communicated to this Department,"—feels it to be his duty, without an utter abandonment of opinions long since formed, and deliberately entertained and expressed for years, but with great deference to the opinions of other members of the Board, to dissent from some of the views contained in the general report, which has been submitted by the Military Committee.

Deeming it unnecessary to inquire whether a military academy is necessary and proper for the existence or support of a free republican government, when every citizen will be, at all times, ready to stand forth in defence of the liberty and independence of his country,—the undersigned will proceed, simply, to make a few observations, which, he thinks, may justly be presented, with regard to the administration, and as suggestions for the improvement of this establishment.

By reference to the history of the military school at West Point, it is worthy of remark, that, in the early usage of the government of the institution, the pupils were selected, mostly, from the indigent sons of that class of revolutionary worthies, who had shed their blood in defence of our national rights and independence. It would seem, then, that this institution was principally designed by its founders, for the education of indigent and meritorious young men. A list of those, however, who have been admitted as cadets, shows conclusively that a large proportion of them have been drawn from the rich, the influential, and the wealthy classes of the community; and this, doubtless, may be attributed to the power of nomination and selection being lodged in the hands of the Senators and Representatives in Congress.

That such a mode of recommendation and selection is every way objectionable and unjust, there certainly can be but one opinion among men of candid and impartial minds; to say nothing of the bad policy of educating and rearing up, either for the army or for the walks of civil life, the sons and relatives of the rich and the powerful, at the *public expense*.

Any institution, supported by the funds of the National Government, which closes its doors to any class of merit, however friendless and indigent, seems to the undersigned, to be unequal and partial in its operations, inconsistent with the spirit and genius of our liberal institutions, anti-republican in its tendency, and should not be tolerated.

Another and most important objection is the *exclusive privilege*, to which its graduates are entitled, of being promoted to stations in the army, while other individuals in society, who have not had the advantage, (free of expense,) of instruction at this Military Academy, though their talents and qualifications may be sufficient, and in every way equal to those of the cadets, are entirely excluded.

The undersigned has thus briefly and candidly sketched some of the objections, which it seems to him must occur to the mind of every one, to the administration of this establishment. Nor is he singular in these views. The people of the State of which he has long been an humble citizen, have been led to examine into the merits of this institution, and have, unless he is greatly deceived, very distinctly declared their opinions, not only through their legislative body, but by an expression of public meetings of intelligent and respectable citizens, against the *expediency*, as well as constitutionality of this seminary.

It is not the province of the undersigned to suggest the remedy. That rests with the Congress of the United States, and not with the Board of Visitors. But he believes that nothing, *at present*, can have a tendency to allay the well grounded objections and prejudices against this establishment, until merit and talents, and not the influence of wealth, or of personal, or of political *favoritism*, shall be the tests of admission.

JNO. HAMM, *Ohio.*

WEST POINT, *New York, June 16th, 1834.*

At a meeting of the Board of Visitors on the 17th June, 1834, the following resolution was submitted by John Hamm, for the consideration and adoption of the Board:

*Resolved*, That the *dissent* presented to the Board on the 16th instant, containing a declaration of the views and opinions of John Hamm, one of the Visitors from Ohio, be entered by the Secretary upon the records of the Board.

The mover having distinctly announced that it was his intention to call for the *yeas* and *nays*, and the resolution not being *seconded*, the Board consequently refused, *unanimously*, to consider it; the following members being present, viz. Scott, of Ohio; Penrose, of Pennsylvania; Lindsley, of Tennessee; Cominge, of Kentucky; Anderson, of Virginia; Stanley, of North Carolina; Van Schoonhoven, of New York; Dallas, of Pittsburg; Smith, of Maine; Captain Smith, of the Army; Duval, of Florida; Latimer, of Delaware; and Murat, of Florida.

JOHN HAMM.

WEST POINT, June 17, 1834.

**ORDER,** }      **HEAD QUARTERS OF THE ARMY,**  
**No. 68.** }      **ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,**  
                }      **Washington, October 31st, 1834.**

1.....Promotions and Appointments in the Army, by the President of the United States, since the publication of the "Order," No. 49, of July 9th, 1834.

**I.....PROMOTIONS.**

**REGIMENT OF DRAGOONS.**

Brevet Second Lieutenant Lucius B. Northrop, to be Second Lieutenant, 21st July, 1834, vice McClure, deceased—(brevet 1st July, 1831.)

**FIRST REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY.**

First Lieutenant David Van Ness, to be Captain, 23d October, 1834, vice Griswold, deceased.

Second Lieutenant Richard C. Tilghman, to be First Lieutenant, 23d October, 1834, vice Van Ness, promoted.

Brevet Second Lieutenant David E. Hale, to be Second Lieutenant, 23d October, 1834, vice Tilghman, promoted—(brevet 1st July, 1833.)

**SECOND REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY.**

Second Lieutenant Hugh W. Mercer, to be First Lieutenant, 10th October, 1834, vice Armstrong, deceased.

Brevet Second Lieutenant Edmund Shriver, to be Second Lieutenant, 31st July, 1834, vice Allen, resigned—(brevet 1st July, 1833.)

Brevet Second Lieutenant Harrison Loughborough, to be Second Lieutenant, 10th October, 1834, vice Mercer, promoted—(brevet 1st July, 1834.)

**THIRD REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY.**

Brevet Second Lieutenant Roswell W. Lee, to be Second Lieutenant, 14th September, 1834, vice Brown, deceased—(brevet 1st July, 1833.)

**FOURTH REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY.**

Second Lieutenant William F. Hopkins, to be First Lieutenant, 14th September, 1834, vice Canfield, appointed Assistant Topographical Engineer.

Brevet Second Lieutenant Alfred Brush, to be Second Lieutenant, 14th September, 1834, vice Hopkins promoted—(brevet 1st July, 1832.)

## SECOND REGIMENT OF INFANTRY.

Major Alexander R. Thompson, of the 6th Regiment, to be Major of the 2d Regiment; ( vice Whistler, promoted : ) to rank from the 4th April, 1832.

## THIRD REGIMENT OF INFANTRY.

Brevet Colonel James B. Many, Lieutenant Colonel of the 7th Infantry, to be Colonel, 21st July, 1834, vice Leavenworth, deceased.

## SEVENTH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY.

Major William Whistler, of the 2d Infantry, to be Lieutenant Colonel, 21st July, 1834, vice Many, promoted.

## II....APPOINTMENTS.

## STAFF.

Assistant Surgeon Edward Macomb, to be Surgeon, to take effect 1st November, 1834, vice Macmahon, resigned.

John S. Gatlin, to be Assistant Surgeon, 3d August, 1834, vice Welsh, deceased.

George R. Clarke, to be Assistant Surgeon, to take effect 1st November, 1834, vice Macomb, promoted.

## TOPOGRAPHICAL ENGINEERS.

Brevet Captain James D. Graham, Assistant Topographical Engineer, to be Topographical Engineer, with the brevet rank of Major, 14th September, 1834, vice Anderson, deceased.

First Lieutenant Augustus Canfield, late of the 4th Regiment of Artillery, to be Assistant Topographical Engineer, with the brevet rank of Captain, 14th September, 1834, vice Graham, promoted.

## III... .CASUALTIES.

## RESIGNATIONS.

Surgeon J. P. C. Macmahon, 30th October, 1834.

Second Lieutenant James Allen, 2d Artillery, 31st July, 1834.

Second Lieutenant Philip St. George Cocke, 2d Artillery, 1st April, 1834.

## DEATHS.

Brevet Brigadier General Henry Leavenworth, Colonel of the 3d Regiment of Infantry, 21st July, 1834.

Brevet Lieutenant Colonel John Anderson, Topographical Engineer, 14th September, 1834.

Colonel William Piatt, Paymaster, 16th August, 1834.

Assistant Surgeon Charles B. Welsh, 2d August, 1834.

Captain H. W. Griswold, 1st Artillery, 23d October, 1834.

Brevet Captain Robert L. Armstrong, 2d Artillery, 10th October, 1834.

Second Lieutenant George W. McClure, Dragoons, 21st July, 1834.

Second Lieutenant Theophilus B. Brown, 3d Artillery, 14th September, 1834.

Brevet Second Lieutenant George D. Dimon, 1st Infantry, 16th Sept. 1834.

2.... The officers *promoted* and *appointed*, will report accordingly, and join their proper stations and companies, without delay ; those on detached service, or acting under special orders and instructions, will report, by *letter*, to their respective Colonels.

BY ORDER OF ALEXANDER MACOMB,

*Major General Commanding in Chief:*

ROGER JONES, *Adjutant General.*

## NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

**MEDITERANEAN.**—Delaware 74, Captain Nicolson, bearing the broad pendant of Commodore Patterson, was in the Levant on the 29th August, having visited Egypt and Syria, and was expected at Malta about the middle of September. Schooner Shark, Lieutenant Commanding Paulding, was in company.

Frigate United States, Captain Ballard, arrived at Vourla Bay, about the 5th August, was at Napoli di Romania on the 22d, and near Smyrna on the 29th August—all well. On the 21st, the King of Greece and his Ministry visited the United States while at Napoli, on the 21st August.

Frigate Constellation, Captain Read, at Malta 17th July, and sailed on the 21st for Mahon, via Tripoli and Tunis. The Constellation is expected shortly at Norfolk.

**WEST INDIES.**—Sloop Falmouth, Captain Rousseau, sailed from Pensacola 9th October, on a cruise of three months.

Schooner Grampus, Lieutenant Commanding White, was at Pensacola on the 12th October.

Schooner Experiment sailed from Pensacola on the 15th October.

**OFFICERS.**—Lieutenant Thomas Paine, *Commander*.

Lieutenant, Samuel E. Munn.—*Acting Sailing Master*, Joseph W. Jarvis.—*Purser*, Peyton A. Southall.—*Acting Surgeon*, Lewis G. Minor.—*Passed Midshipman*, Oliver Tod.—*Midshipmen*, Thomas W. Gibson, William H. Adams, James O'Shannessy, Thaddeus K. Perlee, J. T. S. Collins.—*Captain's Clerk*, L. S. Russell.—*Purser's Steward*, Nathaniel G. Rand.

**BRAZIL.**—Sloop Natchez, Captain Zantzinger, bearing the broad pendant of Commodore Renshaw, sailed from Rio on the 14th August, arrived at Bahia on the 21st, and would sail again for Rio about the 3d September.

Sloop Ontario, Captain Salter, left Rio on the 14th August, and after visiting Pernambuco arrived at Bahia on the 31st; was still there on the 3d September.

**PACIFIC.**—Sloop Vincennes, bearing the broad pendant of Commodore Wadsworth, sailed from Payta on the 12th August for Callao.

Sloop Fairfield, Captain Vallette, at anchor off the Island of Puna, Guayaquil river, 25th August—all well.

Schooner Dolphin, Lieutenant Commanding Voorhees, at Callao 25th Aug.

**MEMORANDA.**—Frigate Potomac, Captain J. J. Nicholson, sailed from Boston 20th October for the Mediterranean. List of officers published in the September number; the following have since been added—Ward Marston, *Captain of Marines*; J. C. Rich, *Lieutenant of Marines*; *Passed Midshipman*, W. S. Swann; *Midshipmen*, Eugene Boyle, J. E. Duncan, W. H. Macomb, J. Q. Adams, and R. M. Bowland. *Cadet Midshipmen*, You, Hixon, Perry, Barney; *Schoolmaster*, T. Wells; *Carpenter*, C. Mead, *vice* W. L. Shuttleworth; *Boatswain*, W. Furnell.

Sloops John Adams, Captain Conner, and Erie, Captain Percival, were at Funchal, Madeira, on the 17th September; the former bound to the Mediterranean, and the latter to sail next day for Rio.

Sloops St. Louis and Vandalia preparing for sea at Norfolk; the former would sail soon for the West Indies.

*Officers attached to the St. Louis:*

**CHARLES S. McCUALEY**, *Commander*  
**Lieutenants**, S. Mercer, R. H. Morris, N. C. Lawrence, C. M. Armstrong,  
**A. B. Fairfax**, James Noble.  
*Surgeon*, S. W. Ruff.—*Assistant Surgeon*, G. W. Peete.  
*Purser*, F. B. Stockton.—*Acting Master*, S. Swartwout.

*Passed Midshipman*, R. W. Meade.—*Midshipmen*, S. Dod, D. R. Crawford, W. P. Bradburn, R. P. Welsh, W. M. E. Adams, M. Hunt, jun., J. D. Johnson, J. J. Morrison, B. S. Gantt, J. A. H. Sands, C. W. Morris.

*Boatswain*, C. Woodland.—*Gunner*, J. Dawson.—*Carpenter*, R. D. Berry.—*Sailmaker*, J. T. Boyce.

*Officers of the Vandalia:*

T. T. WEBB, *Commander*.

*Lieutenants*, J. Mattison, R. D. Thorburn, J. Cassin, W. S. Ogden, W. E. Hunt, W. McBlair, H. Ingersoll.

*Surgeon of the Fleet*, L. Osborne.—*Purser*, James Brooks.—*Acting Master*, S. C. Rowan.—*Passed Midshipmen*, G. H. Scott, R. Forrest, C. F. McIntosh. *Midshipmen*, J. W. E. Reid, J. McCormick, E. Lanier, R. N. Stembel, W. O. Slade, E. H. Drake.

*Boatswain*, John Mills.—*Gunner*, S. Daggett.—*Carpenter*, J. Cox.—*Sailmaker*, M. Wheeden.

**NOTE.**—Commodore HENLEY will probably hoist his broad pendant on board the St. Louis, in which case the Surgeon of the Fleet will accompany him, and Dr. Ruff be transferred to the Vandalia. Dr. D. S. Edwards goes out passenger in one of the sloops, to join the Falmouth.

Schooner Boxer, bound to the Pacific, sailed from Norfolk on the —.

**OFFICERS.**—HUGH N. PAGE, *Lieutenant Commanding*.

*Lieutenants*, C. H. Jackson, Peter Turner, H. M. Houston.

*Assistant Surgeon*, T. L. Smith.—*Purser*, E. T. Dunn.—*Acting Master*, Cicero Price.—*Passed Midshipman*, A. W. Prevost.—*Midshipmen*, B. F. Anderson, A. Harrell, W. L. Blanton, C. St. G. Noland.—*Gunner*, C. Wade.

**R E S I G N A T I O N S.**

Stern Humphreys, *Lieutenant*, 1st October, 1834.

Philo White, *Purser*, 31st October, 1834.

G. J. W. Thayer, *Midshipman*, 27th October, 1834.

**C A S H I E R E D.**

Surgeon John S. Wily, 20th October, 1834.

Passed Midshipman William Chandler, 20th October, 1834.

Midshipman Samuel Garrison, 20th October, 1834.

Assistant Surgeon Euclid Borland, 22d October, 1834.

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**ORGANIZATION OF THE MARINE CORPS,**

*Under the act of Congress, of 30th June, 1834.*

*One Colonel*—Archibald Henderson.

*One Lieutenant Colonel*—R. D. Wainwright.

*Four Majors*: *Lieutenant Colonels by brevet*—Samuel Miller, John M. Gamble, Samuel E. Watson, William H. Freeman.

*Thirteen Captains*:

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. Charles R. Broom, Paymaster and Lieutenant Colonel by brevet. | 7. Elijah J. Weed, Quarter Master. |
| 2. Levi Twiggs,  | 8. William W. Dulany,              |
| 3. John Harris,  | 9. Thomas S. English,              |
| 4. Thomas A. Linton,   | 10. George W. Walker,              |
| 5. James Edelin,   | 11. Ward Marston,                  |
| 6. Parke G. Howle, Adj't. and Insp'r.                            | 12. Charles C. Tupper,             |
|  | 13. A. A. Nicholson.               |

*Twenty First Lieutenants.*

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|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. James McCauley, Capt. by brevet, | 11. George F. Lindsay,    |
| 2. Benj. Macomber, do. do.          | 12. Landon N. Carter,     |
| 3. A. N. Brevoort, do. do.          | 13. John G. Reynolds,     |
| 4. Andrew Ross,                     | 14. Henry W. Fowler,      |
| 5. Richard Douglas,                 | 15. Francis C. Hall,      |
| 6. Job G. Williams,                 | 16. Thomas L. C. Watkins, |
| 7. Alvin Edson,                     | 17. F. N. Armistead,      |
| 8. Horatio N. Crabb,                | 18. George H. Territt,    |
| 9. Henry B. Tyler,                  | 19. William E. Stark,     |
| 10. Joseph L. C. Hardy,             | 20. Nathaniel S. Waldron. |

*Twenty Second Lieutenants.*

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. William Lang,           | 11. Thomas Theodore Sloan, |
| 2. Jacob Zelin, junior,    | 12. Addison Garland,       |
| 3. Thomas M. W. Young,     | 13. John P. Dieterich,     |
| 4. George W. Robbins,      | 14. John Still,            |
| 5. D. D. Baker,            | 15. Louis F. Whitney,      |
| 6. Archibald H. Gillespie, | 16. Frederick B. McNeill,  |
| 7. George W. McLean,       | 17. John T. Sprague,       |
| 8. Benjamin E. Brooke,     | 18. Edward B. Grayson,     |
| 9. Edgar Irving,           | 19. Edward Lloyd West,     |
| 10. Jabez C. Rich,         | 20. Robert C. Caldwell.    |

NAVY DEPARTMENT, October 18, 1834.

A VETERAN LIEUTENANT.—The British Admiralty have lately promoted Lieutenant JOSEPH HEMSTREY PRIEST, ( 1793 ) on his retiring from Plymouth dock-yard, to the rank of Commander, after fifty-five years service!

**MARRIAGES.**

In Middletown, Conn., on the 26th September, Rev. P. S. CHAUNCEY, to MARY, daughter of Commodore JAMES RENSHAW, of the Navy.

In Washington, D. C., on the 4th October, Lieutenant J. WALLER BARRY, of the 1st Artillery, to Miss MARTHA B. HUTCHINSON.

**DEATHS.**

At Kittery, Maine, on the 27th September, Lieutenant JOSEPH CUTTS, of the Navy.

On the 16th Sept., at Fort Crawford, Prairie du Chien, M. T. of bilious fever, Lieutenant GEORGE D. DIMON, of the 1st Regiment Infantry.

In Philadelphia, on the 10th October, Brevet Captain ROBERT L. ARMSTRONG, of the 2d Artillery, U. S. A. On the 19th October, FRÉDERICK G. WOLBERT, formerly a Lieutenant in the Navy.

In Washington, on the 3d October, ASBURY DICKINS, infant son of Captain C. S. McCauley, of the Navy. On the 26th August, CHARLES ARCH-

BALD SHEDDEN, aged 14 months, son of Lieutenant C. H. JACKSON, of the Navy.

At Pensacola, on the 7th October, Mrs. MARY W., wife of BYRD C. WILLIS, Esq., Navy Agent at that place. On the evening of the same day, Midshipman DAVID IRWIN, of the Navy.

At Germantown, Penn., on the morning of the 14th Oct., RICHARD DENNIS, jun., in the 20th year of his age, Cadet at the Military Academy, West Point, and son of Col. RICHARD DENNIS.

At Beaufort, N. C., on the 5th Oct., DAVID BARCLAY, aged 1 year and 11 months, son of Major R. M. KIRBY, of the U. S. Army, commanding officer at that post.

At Castle Pinckney, Charleston, S. C., on the 23d Oct. Capt. HENRY W. GRISWOLD, of the 1st Art. U. S. A.

At Fort Gibson, on the 28th Sept., Lieutenant JAMES WEST, of the 7th Infantry, in the 25th year of his age.

At Pensacola, on the 18th October, Lieut. AUGUSTUS R. STRONG, of the Navy.